BULLETIN

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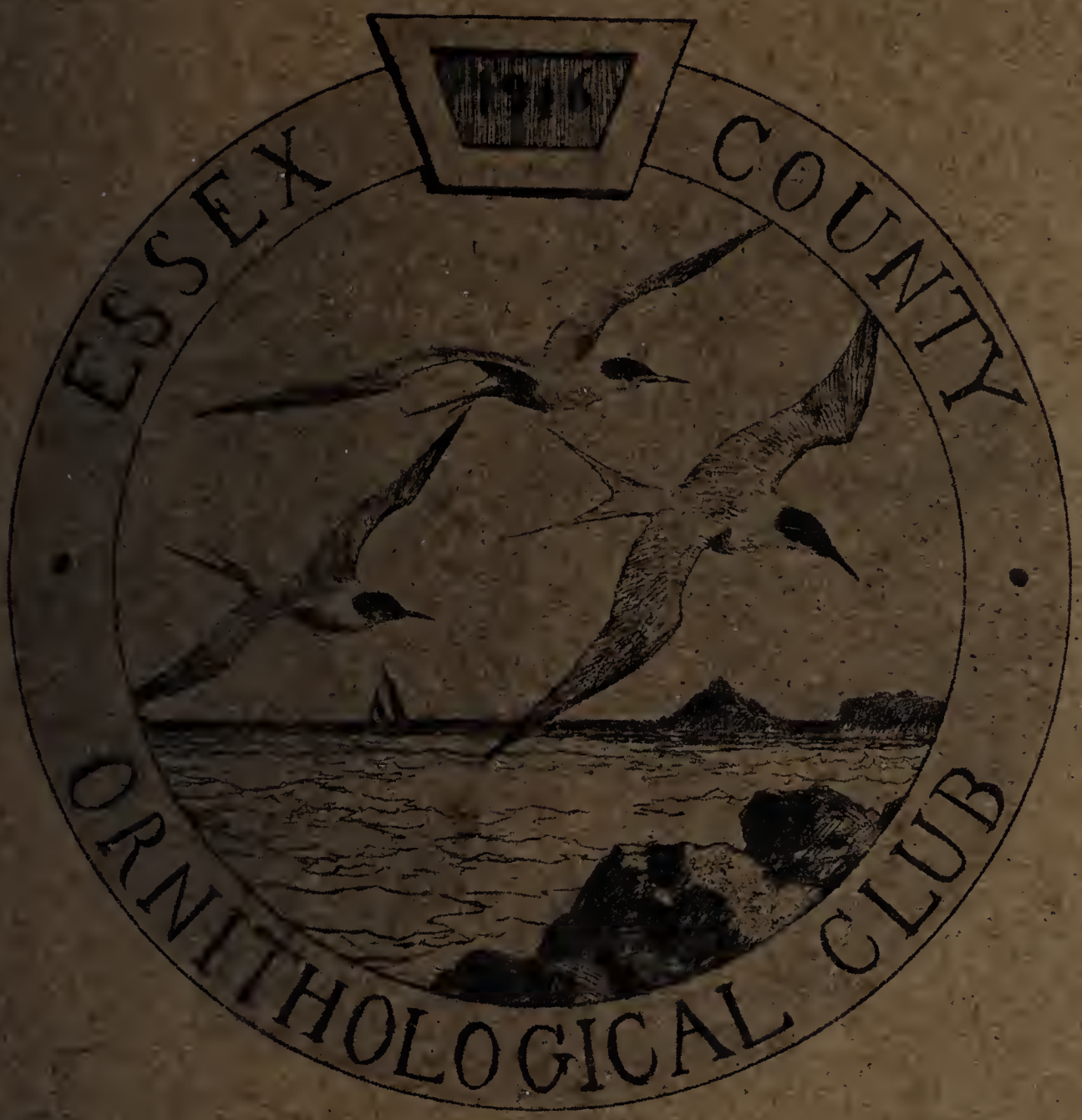

1927

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BULLETIN

OF THE

Essex County Ornithological Club

OF

Massachusetts

1927

FIFTY CENTS

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BY THE

ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Salem, Massachusetts

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1927

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Secretary

RALPH LAWSON
88 Washington Square
Salem, Massachusetts

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Ornithological Club
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S. GILBERT EMILIO
156 Hobart Street
Danvers, Massachusetts

Recorder

ARTHUR P. STUBBS
14 Fiske Avenue
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G. W. BYRAN
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BULLETIN

OF THE

ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

OF MASSACHUSETTS

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

ISSUED ANNUALLY

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

RALPH LAWSON ARTHUR P. STUBBS S. G. EMILIO

DECEMBER, 1927 SALEM, MASS. Number 9

FOREWORD

ARTHUR P. STUBBS

Another year of pleasant association and effective work has passed into history. Satisfactory results have been achieved even though all ideals have not been reached. The Club continues to increase in vigor and is looking forward to years of study and field work.

Ten new members have been admitted during the twelve months, thus bringing the membership up to our limit. A careful scrutiny of each candidate's scientific leanings has resulted in a large proportion of active field-workers and serious students.

Regular meetings in the large room so kindly furnished us by the Peabody Museum, at Salem, have been well attended and many interesting entertainments have been provided. The few organized Club field meetings have been successful, but the greater part of the work of building up this year's excellent bird list has been done by individuals or by small parties of two or three going afield as opportunity permitted. More careful study of the coast line and the outlying islands and ledges has produced good results, and it is intended to make more tours by motor boat among these sea-bird haunts each year.

The Bulletin has been well received and its further publication seems fully warranted. There is, however, no present prospect of more than one issue each year so this number will be designated as Number Nine, dropping the somewhat confusing Volume and Number designations of the past. Work has at last been started on a proposed "Directory of Bird Haunts in Essex County, Mass." and it is hoped that a chapter or two will be ready for publication in the next issue of the Bulletin.

We are trying to make this publication more and more attractive and are always ready to give serious consideration, not only to articles contributed by friends outside of the Club, but also to suggestions from all of our readers, for we want to supply as best we can whatever is most desired by our subscribers.

In addition to our regular readers there are many people who, if they think of ornithology at all, consider it either difficult or entirely uninteresting. Yet we know that many hours of pleasure can be gained by a little serious bird study, and that the fields and woods are doubly attractive to those who are more or less intimately acquainted with their feathered inhabitants. So we shall feel repaid to some extent if our Bulletin is successful in arousing the curiosity and exciting the interest in ornithology of at least a few individuals of the millions to whom the automobile has made the fields and woods and seashore so accessible.

The Club Camp which has not been utilized by the Club as a whole during recent years will propably be renovated early in 1928 and in other ways made more attractive by a new committee placed in charge, so that we hope future field meetings there will be more generously attended.

BIRDS SEEN IN THE NILE VALLEY

CHARLES W. TOWNSEND

In the narrow valley of the Nile from Cairo to the First Cataract at Assuan, a distance by the river of six hundred miles, temples and tombs of surpassing interest are thickly scattered. Without in any way neglecting these, the traveller, especially if he be a naturalist, finds much else of interest. He sees the daily life of the people, which in many ways is but little changed from that depicted in the wall-paintings and carvings four thousand years old. In this region where practically no rain falls, one realizes as never before how dependent are not only the people but all life, animal and vegetable, on the waters of the great river. Outside of the narrow river valley—sometimes a mere strip and sometimes expanded to a dozen miles in width—the great Libyan desert stretches to the west, the Arabian desert to the east.

I spent the month of March, 1927, in Egypt, and for three weeks lived on a steamer that took me up the Nile to Assuan and back, and I made almost daily trips, generally on donkeyback, in the valley, often into the desert, to visit the temples and tombs. In March many birds are migrating north from central Africa to their nesting places in Europe, and the valley is an ideal pathway. How plainly from high in the air the narrow green ribbon stretching to the north must show in the surrounding sea of grey sand! According to Moreau, however, quoted by Thomson,* some migrants traverse Egypt without regard to the Nile valley.

The river, restrained for irrigation purposes by the great dam at Assuan, was low in March, and many extensive flats were exposed on which water birds were often to be seen in great numbers. As our progress was slow and we were often detained for hours aground on flats, the opportunities for bird study from the steamer were excellent. Ducks and geese were as a rule wary, but I was able to identify the fine Egyptian Goose, *Alopochen ægyptica*, as well as Mallards, *Anas b. boschas*, Pintails, *Anas acuta* and Shovellers, *Spatula clypeata*, all in considerable numbers.

* Problems of Bird Migration, 1926, p. 87.

Of shore birds, the most interesting and abundant everywhere in large and small flocks was the fine Spur-winged Plover, *Hoplopterus spinosus*, a crested black and white bird, larger than the Black-bellied Plover. A few Lapwings, *Vanellus vanellus*, equally large, and Little Stints, *Tringa minuta*, resembling our Least Sandpipers, were making their way northwards, and Greenshanks, *Totanus nebularis*, which suggested our Yellowlegs, Green Sandpipers, *Totanus ochropus*, looking like our Solitary Sandpipers, and Common Sandpipers, *Totanus hypoleucus*, which looked and tetered for all the world like our Spotted Sandpipers, were common.

The Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia* a relation of our Roseate Spoonbill, but much larger and white in color with long black legs and a great spoon bill black and tipped with yellow, was to be seen singly and in flocks of ten to forty.

The White Stork, *Ciconia c. ciconia*, which nests on houses in Germany, Denmark and Russia, a splendid great white bird with black wings and red bill and feet, was often seen on the sand bars. At Assuan, on March 20 and 22, I saw three flocks of from eighty to a hundred birds each, circle upwards and strike out for the north down the Nile valley. On one of these days there was a strong wind up the valley, and the birds in circling upwards drifted some distance to the south. Arrived at a great height they set their wings, and, holding them motionless, they sailed majestically into the north. I could not help thinking that the baby crop would be large in Europe that summer.

The pretty little Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle r. rudis*, black and white, was to be seen everywhere along the river bank, actively plunging for fish. The Common Heron, *Ardea c. cinerea*, which is nearly identical with our Great Blue Heron, stood about fishing on the flats, singly or in migratory flocks. Three kinds of white herons were to be seen, the Great White Heron, *Egretta a. alba*, the Little Egret, *Egretta g. gargazetta*, and the Buffy-backed Heron, *Ardeola i. ibis*. The last named, which in winter appears nearly pure white, but in the nuptial season is colored buff on back and chest yet looks generally white, was abundant in the irrigated fields, especially in the lower course of the river, near Cairo and in the delta below.

The only gulls were a couple of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, *Larus f. fuscus*, seen near Beni-Hassan, and I saw a few Cormorants, *Phalacrocorax carbo subcarmoranus*. It is necessary to add that I did not see the Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis æthiopicus*, except depicted in temples and tombs, for it is only accidental in Egypt.

In places there were swarms of Egyptian Sand Martins, *Riparia riparia littoralis*, flying in and out of holes in the sand cliffs, a pale Crag Martin, *Riparia o. obsoleta*, nested at some of the tombs and the Swallow of England, *Hirundo r. rustica*, much like our Barn Swallow, was migrating north. The darker bellied form, *H. rustica savignii*, a resident, was abundant and found plenty of flies to snap up in the crowded villages.

The Egyptian Kite, *Milvus migrans ægyptius*, takes the place of a gull as a scavenger on the river, but they pick up the flotsam with their talons and not their bill. Near Luxor I saw one pick up a morsel with both feet, transfer it to one foot and then swoop and pick up another morsel with the other foot. Then, still on the wing, he transferred the food to his bill and began eating.

The Kestrel, a dark race, *Falco tinnunculus rupicolæformis*, nests in the old temples. It is closely allied to our misnamed Sparrow Hawk, for the old world Sparrow Hawk of which I saw a few is an Accipiter, *A. nisus*. I saw a Pale Harrier, *Circus macrourus*, a magnificient Imperial Eagle, *Aquila h. heliaca* and an Osprey, *Pandion h. haliaetus*. The creamy white Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron p. percnopterus* was not uncommon and a few Black Vultures, *Ægypius monachus*, were seen.

Near Memphis on a Nile flat, I saw six splendid Cranes, *Megalornis g. grus*, pale slate grey in color with red occiputs, birds that stand as high as a man. I was fortunate in seeing a couple of Ravens, *Corvus corax ruficollis* in the mountains back of the tombs of the Kings, while the Hooded Crow, *C. cornix sardonius*, was not uncommon. Two sub-species of House Sparrow, that from Alexandria to Cairo, *Passer domesticus alexandrinus*, and south of that *P. d. niloticus* were common in the villages. These were the only members of the Finch family I identified. Donkey-back is not conducive to bird observation.

Everywhere along the dusty roads leading through cultivated lands into the desert, brown birds with crests, the Crested Lark, *Galerida cristata maculata*, were common, and still more common was the White Wagtail, *Motacilla a. alba*.

Near Cairo I saw a Lesser Grey Shrike, *Lanius minor*, and at Assuan several Masked Shrikes, *Lanius nubicus*, were seen. Two Warblers are entered on my list with some hesitation although the identification seemed fairly satisfactory,—*Hypolais p. pallida* and *Sylvia melanocephala momus*. A fine dark blue-grey bird that I examined at close range on March 27 among the rocky hills on the edge of the desert at Assyut, was plainly a Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola s. solitarius*, while the White-rumped Wheatear, *Œnanthe l. leucopyga*, was not uncommon and I identified a Stone chat, *Saxicola torquata rubicola*, The Redstart, *Phœnicurus p. phœnicurus*, and the Red-spotted Bluethroat, *Luscinia suecica*, are the last to be mentioned of the birds of this group. The latter bird was all that its name implies, and a good view of it in the garden at Assuan gave me a distinct thrill. A still greater thrill was given me at the same place by two Yellow-breasted Sunbirds, *Nectarina metallica*, striking birds with metallic green heads and blue lower backs, and with tails over four inches long, more than twice the length of the body of the bird. They hovered over mimosa flowers like Hummingbirds.

The Egyptian Rock Dove *Columba livia schimperi*, a paler bird than the common Domestic Pigeon abounds in the villages of Upper Egypt. Large houses of clay or unbaked bricks are erected for their accomodation and their dung is used for fertilizer. The pretty little Egyptian Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis ægyptica*, is common. I saw only two Starlings, probably *Sturnus vulgaris sophiæ*.

Two birds only remain to be mentioned, of the order CORACIIFORMES, both striking birds and breeding in the region, namely the Egyptian Hoopoe, *Upupa epops major*, and the Egyptian Bee-Eater, *Merops orientalis cleopatra*. The Hoopoe with his beautiful crest which he alternately expands and contracts, his long curved bill with which he probes the soil and his soft call which suggests his name, is a fine bird to see. The Bee-Eater which well deserves its sub-specific name *cleopatra* because of its

grace and beauty, is a common bird in the valley of the Nile. Of a lovely green color with long curved bill and long tail, it is conspicuous even to the casual tourist. Its flight is rapid and graceful as it sallies out from its perch on a dead limb and darts like a flycatcher in pursuit of its insect prey.

In all, I identified some fifty-six species in my sight-seeing excursion in the Nile valley, and doubtless many others were overlooked.

NOTE. I cannot recommend too highly Ramsey's "Guide to the Birds of Europe and North Africa". Without this identifications would have been difficult.

IPSWICH RIVER TRIP

RALPH LAWSON

The twenty-first annual trip was made on May 14 and 15, and one hundred and seven different species of birds were observed. There were thirty members and guests in the party in eleven canoes.

The spring of 1927 had been typical of New England, with many sudden temperature changes. A remarkable five day period of really hot weather in March, followed by shorter and much less pronounced warm spells, had exerted some influence on vegetation, but lack of moisture and many cold nights had served to check growth. At the end of the first two weeks in May, which had been cool and rainy, plant life on the average was nearly normal.

In Essex County the spring migration was somewhat irregular, and at no time was there an abundance of birds, although field reports from Club members showed that at least a scattering of each species had appeared about on schedule, and that our winter visitants, which had been remarkable only by their scarcity, had gone north on about the expected dates.

Owing to the spring drought, the Ipswich river was lower than on any previous trip, there being barely enough water to float the canoes over several shallows immediately below the bridge at South Middleton. The low water also prevented the taking of any short cuts across the several marshes.

On Friday, May 13, ten of the party spent the night at the camp of Messrs. Bruley and Kimball, near which a Woodcock was heard performing his "sky dance." This species was also recorded on the following day.

The three mile walk on Saturday morning from camp to the Middleton Paper Mills furnished the record of the Lincoln's Sparrow, which was observed at close range by most of the party.

Friday night had been clear and still, with a full moon, and there was a fine bird chorus at daybreak on Saturday in spite of a chill river fog.

A party of fourteen in four canoes left Middleton Paper Mills about 9.30 A. M. Saturday, and reached Howe Station at about one o'clock. The morning was partly cloudy, but with much

warm sunshine, and there was very little wind A total of seventy-five species were checked on this part of the trip.

Saturday, lunch was eaten at Mr. Felt's camp, as usual, and the main party got under way shortly after two o'clock, and reached "The Pines" about six, where camp was pitched, supper eaten, and where our annual campfire, aided by a full moon over the marshes, added one more memorable evening to our list.

The afternoon had been partly cloudy but less warm than the morning, owing to a gentle wind from the southeast. Our check-up at the campfire showed a total of ninety-one species for the day. It is interesting to note that Whip-poor-wills, which had been apparently absent from the marshes for many trips, seemed this year to be everywhere, and their notes, mingled with those of the Sora and the occasional song of a Swamp Sparrow, and the quacking of ducks, gave more life to the Great Wenham Swamp than had been heard for many years. No doubt the low water was largely responsible for this.

Sunday morning dawned fair and cool, but clouds began to gather soon after sunrise, and the wind backed to the east and northeast. Canoes began leaving "The Pines" shortly before eight o'clock, and by eight-thirty camp was deserted. It began to rain about eight-thirty and from shortly after that time until noon it poured in earnest, so that there was very little opportunity to make the many landings and short excursions which are usual between Pine Island and Willowdale.

An innovation this year was the leaving of all canoes at Willowdale, where motor busses were boarded which transported the Clark's Pond and Little Neck party to the old Toll Gate on the Little Neck Road, and the return, which was from Little Neck by motor boat to Ipswich, reversed the route on the salt water end of the trip. Only five members of the party made the last part of the journey, but no rain was encountered, and eight additional species were listed on or near salt water.

Throughout this trip Maryland Yellow-throats and Catbirds were the most abundant species, and there were also an unusual number of Marsh Wrens, Swamp Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers and Redstarts, and owing to the low water Peep were common on the fresh marshes. All other species seemed to be in subnormal

numbers, and Tree Swallows were particularly noticeable in this respect. The absence from the list of many of the rare migrant Warblers may easily be accounted for by the heavy rain which occurred on Sunday morning when the party was passing through the best Warbler country.

The complete list is as follows:

A. O. U.	
47.	Great Black-backed Gull
51.	Herring Gull
70.	Common Tern
120.	Double-crested Cormorant
130.	Red-breasted Merganser
133.	Black Duck
144.	Wood Duck
190.	American Bittern
194.	Great Blue Heron
201.	Green Heron
202.	Back-crowned Night Heron
212.	Virginia Rail
214.	Sora
228.	Woodcock
242.	Least Sandpiper
246.	Semipalmated Sandpiper
254.	Greater Yellow-legs
256.	Solitary Sandpiper
263.	Spotted Sandpiper
270.	Black-bellied Plover
273.	Killdeer
274.	Semipalmated Plover
289.	Bob-white
300.	Ruffed Grouse
	Ring-necked Pheasant
316.	Mourning Dove
331.	Marsh Hawk
332.	Sharp-shinned Hawk
339.	Red-shouldered Hawk
343.	Broad-winged Hawk
360.	Sparrow Hawk
364.	Osprey
388.	Black-billed Cuckoo
390.	Belted Kingfisher
393.	Hairy Woodpecker
394c	Downy Woodpecker
412a	Northern Flicker

A. O. U.	
417.	Whip-poor-will
423.	Chimney Swift
428.	Ruby-th'd Hummingbird
444.	Kingbird
452.	Crested Flycatcher
456.	Phoebe
466a	Alder Flycatcher
467.	Least Flycatcher
474b	Prairie Horned Lark
477.	Blue Jay
488.	American Crow
493.	Starling
494.	Bobolink
495.	Cowbird
498.	Red-winged Blackbird
501.	Meadowlark
507.	Baltimore Oriole
509.	Rusty Blackbird
511b	Bronzed Grackle
517.	Purple Finch
	English Sparrow
529.	American Goldfinch
540.	Vesper Sparrow
542a	Savannah Sparrow
554.	White-crowned Sparrow
558.	White-throated Sparrow
560.	Chipping Sparrow
563.	Field Sparrow
581.	Song Sparrow
583.	Lincoln's Sparrow
584.	Swamp Sparrow
587.	Towhee
595.	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
608.	Scarlet Tanager
612.	Cliff Swallow
613.	Barn Swallow
614.	Tree Swallow

616. Bank Swallow
619. Cedar Waxwing
624. Red-eyed Vireo
628. Yellow-throated Vireo
631. White-eyed Vireo
636. Black and White Warbler
642. Golden-winged Warbler
645. Nashville Warbler
648a Northern Parula Warbler
652. Yellow Warbler
655. Myrtle Warbler
659. Chestnut-sided Warbler
662. Blackburnian Warbler
667. Black-throated Green Warbler
671. Pine Warbler
673. Prairie Warbler
674. Oven-bird
675. Water-Thrush
681. Maryland Yellow-throat
687. American Redstart
704. Catbird
705. Brown Thrasher
724. Short-billed Marsh Wren
725. Long-billed Marsh Wren
726. Brown Creeper
728. Red-breasted Nuthatch
735. Chickadee
749. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
755. Wood Thrush
756. Veery
759b Hermit Thrush
761. Robin
766. Bluebird

DATA FROM CENTRAL MAINE

The following is an extract from a letter to the Recorder from our new corresponding member, Sanford Ritchie of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

"It was quite a satisfaction to have you refer to so many forms of shore and water birds that are familiar to me only through color illustrations or museum specimens. Located as I am, up here in central Maine, so far from the seashore, with its great variety of species, and with only an occasional trip to the coast for a day or so, I find myself sadly out of touch with these interesting forms which have such a fascination whenever I am so fortunate as to come in contact with them.

"Amongst the Divers we have the Pied-billed Grebe which occasionaly breeds on the shore of some small and isolated pond and I sometimes note it on some of my fishing trips. Have seen the species several times this season on ponds away from the auto trails. The Loon is common as a summer resident on nearly all of our larger ponds and about the lakes. In late August it is no uncommon experience to note ten or fifteen birds in a flock. Of course a large percent of these groups would consist of young birds yet nearly full grown. Occasionally the Red-throated Loon is seen but it is comparatively rare.

"The Herring Gull is the only representative of its family that can be considered common, Bonaparte's Gull being seen occasionally about the lakes as a fall migrant and hardly any species of Tern is noted so far from the coast. In the Duck family we have a good representation. I had a rare species for this region, a Surf Scoter, brought me for identificaion on September 28, a solitary bird that was feeding alone in a small ducking pond, a few miles out. This is the only authentic record for the county (Piscataquis.)

"Last summer I had a Green Heron brought in by some farmer boys, who knew no better than shoot this rare species for this latitude; yet I was glad to see the specimen as it was also the first authentic record for the county, although I afterward found a mounted specimen in a camp about a hundred miles north, at Sourdnahunk Lake, that was taken ten years previously. I find it a very interesting matter to pick up these ocasional records.

"We have both species of Yellow-legs as migrants but about our only resident sandpiper is *A. macularia* which breeds about our rivers, streams and ponds. Other species of the family are seen occasionally but are not at all common. *Bartramia longicauda*, which bred commonly in this region, twenty-five years since, is now a rare bird, occasionally seen or heard as it passes high overhead, but the bird-student reckons himself extremely fortunate if three or four occurrences are noted for the season in this vicinity. In the spring of 1926, from April 16 to May 23, a single Killdeer Plover stayed around our village and was seen or heard by myself every day. This is the only instance of its occurrence here in many years.

"As perhaps I told you when at Lynn, I have spent a considerable portion of the early spring and summer afield and have been enabled to get a line on birds of Piscataquis County as I have not previously done. If you should note the advance statements of our Maine press concerning conditions of our game birds, you may have received the impression that Grouse are fast regaining their former status numerically; but tell your sportsmen friends to forget anything of that character they may be so unfortunate as to have read, as there is nothing in the report excepting bait for out-of-state sports.

"The fact is they are not coming back rapidly, if at all; and owing to the opening up of new auto trails leading right into the heart of our Maine wilderness, thereby making these one-time game sanctuaries easily and quickly available to the hunter, the birds are being persecuted as never before in the history of our state. Again the Grouse is legitimate prey, twelve months in the year, for all our carnivorous animals and birds. Both adults and young, eggs and nestlings are constantly hunted by bear, bobcat, fox, skunk, mink and weasel, hawks and owls, crows and jays, and last and by no means least, in open season and sometimes before comes their worst enemy, man, with his automatic shotgun or the deer hunter with his rifle.

"During the month of September last, I accompanied a woodsman and trapper over his fur territory, trailing from ten to twenty miles a day for eleven days each day over a different trail, through a wild and moutainous region with slopes and

valleys lying between and interspersed with lakes and rivers, brooks and streams galore, ideal cover for game animals and birds. During this period we saw moose, deer and bear with all kinds of "sign" in abundance, ducks fairly abundant, but, during all the sometimes weary miles that we covered those days, we counted just twelve Grouse, only one being of the "spruce" species. In September, 1926, in company with the same experienced woodsman, I covered nearly the same territory and during a practically similar period, we saw only fourteen birds. My friend stated that five or six years ago we would have seen more than a hundred birds on our trip. A close time of at least two years should have been placed on our Maine grouse, beginning with season of 1927.

"I had a splendid time this season during the Warbler migration and was fortunate in recording the Cape May one day as it passed. Also I found the Grasshopper Sparrow another day in an old dry pasture, which served to mark that as a red letter day."

SUMMER EXPLORATIONS

S. G. EMILIO

During the last half of July 1926, I motored for about 1,500 miles through New Hampshire and Maine, the greater part of the mileage being in the latter state. The route followed was northward from Danvers, Mass., through Pinkham Notch of the White Mountains to Errol, thence eastward to the Rangeley Lakes, through Skowhegan to Moosehead Lake, then to Bangor and Mt. Desert, thence down the coast to Wiscasset, up to Waterville then to Lewiston, Portland and home. I planned to camp out about two-thirds of the time but after the fourth night my companions refused to endure longer the minute insects known as ''midges'', and thereafter we took shelter each night in habitations of wood and stone. This procedure rather limited opportunity for observation, but it was possible to see or hear a few birds while driving and I usually had a little time at one end of the day or the other for a brief search.

Of the ninety-nine species which were recorded on the trip, only two, the Crow and the Song Sparrow were seen every day. The Kingbird, Chipping Sparrow, Robin and Bluebird, however, were missed one day only. The next group of birds, which were missed two days of the sixteen, includes Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Barn Swallow and Red-eyed Vireo. Nearly as frequently observed were the Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Savannah Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing and Redstart. It is very doubtful if the Nighthawk, Savannah Sparrow and Red-eyed Vireo would rank with the thirteen most frequently observed summer birds of Essex County, Mass., though it is possible the Vireo might fall in that classification.

Additional comparisons with the bird life of Essex County, Mass., may be of interest. The Herring Gull follows up the Merrimac River some miles from its mouth and is not infrequently seen on even the smaller ponds near the coast nevertheless it does not nest in Essex County* and one living there habitually associates the bird with salt water. On Rangely Lake, far from the ocean I saw at least two birds possibly a nesting pair. On Moosehead Lake was a sure enough nesting colony for in the vicinity of Hog Back Island were at least twenty-five birds and a

few others were roaming far and wide over the great expanse of water.

I expected to find the Canada Spruce Partridge on this trip but as a matter of fact saw only one Ruffed Grouse to represent the *tetraonidae.*

Bald Eagles are of only casual occurrence in the southern part of the County where I live but twenty years ago one could be fairly sure to find these birds in summer in the vicinity of Lake Winnepesaukee. This summer though we found a very considerable increase in the number of habitations around the lake, near Welch's Island where I had camped many years ago were three eagles. These were not the only ones observed on the trip for I saw one, presumably white-headed, soaring over Pinkham Notch and at Mt. Desert we looked DOWN on an adult Bald Eagle from one of the round-topped mountains of that interesting island.

Another bird of the wilder regions is the Pileated Woodpecker. While I have not given up hope of finding a verturesome individual of the species in Essex County it is better judgment to look for it one-hundred or more miles to the northward. On this trip I was not successful in seeing a "Cock-of-the-woods" but did hear the Flicker-like call near Moosehead Lake and approached the bird quite closely in the rather dense woods.

It is recorded that the Olive-sided Flycatcher formerly nested in northeastern Massachusetts but if there are any recent instances of its breeding there I do not know of them. It was not until we reached the vicinity of Moosehead that I found this species but no doubt it occurs normally many miles south of there.

The Alder Flycatcher occasionally breeds in this part of Massachusetts but is essentially a bird of the Canadian Zone in summer. I found one in that zone and another distinctly over the line in the Transition or Alleghanian both in the state of Maine.

Here at home one can scarcely be afield nine minutes without observing one or more Starlings, but for nine whole days on the journey last summer through the two northeastern states I saw not a Starling. The first two days out the bird appeared on the lists and only when we were again within a hundred miles of home did it reappear.

Early in July our local Baltimore Orioles frequently retire to the berry patches and are little observed thereafter. Nevertheless I was unprepared for its almost complete absence from the daily lists made on our tour. It was recorded on only the first day and this was one of the ornithological surprises of the trip.

On the other hand the prevalance of the Savannah Sparrow was equally astonishing. In this county it breeds so far as I know only in the salt marsh region. I expected to find it in open country near the White Mountains for I had seen it there before but it was also in evidence nearly everywhere we went in Maine remote from the seacoast as well as near it.

The White-throated Sparrow breeds very sparingly hereabouts and I did not record it until the third day, or somewhere north of Lake Winnepesaukee. Each of the eleven days following it appeared on the lists and then as we came southward well into the Transition Zone it disappeared again.

Somewhat similar in occurrence was the Slate-colored Junco. I recorded it however only eight consecutive days and it was last seen on the island of Mt. Desert.

In the part of Essex County where I hunt birds most frequently, the Indigo Bunting is decidedly rare. On various occasions however, when I have crossed the New Hampshire line the species immediately seemed to become common. So on this trip, the first three days as we went northward through New Hampshire I recorded the Indigo as tolerably common. Then as we reached the northern edge of the Transition and passed over into the Canadian Zone it was seen no more but on returning southward in Maine it came in again for three days near the end of the journey.

Another bird one rarely sees in Masachusetts is the Purple Martin. Near Laconia, N. H., I saw a small colony and from then on it was not uncommon in the territory we traversed for I recorded it on no less than six subsequent days when larger or smaller colonies were observed.

The Blue-headed Vireo was recorded only on the first three days and the last day of the trip. This would seem to indicate that its breeding range is well below the northern or upper limit of the Transition zone. My failure to find it elsewhere, however

is not conclusive, as the search was far from an exhaustive one.

Only thirteen of the warbler family were listed. Of these the Canada may be found occasionally in Essex County but the Parula, Black-throated Blue and Magnolia rarely if ever breed here. One must gain in altitude or latitude to find them in summer. Late July is not quite the best time to search for warblers in northern New England or very probably I would easily have found more species.

Other birds of the Canadian Zone in summer which I observed were the Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet. These are essentially transient or winter residents with us at home but it is not very far to their nearest breeding areas.

For the Wood Thrush I have but one record made at the very start of the trip. It is far from a common bird now in our county and apparently still less common to the northward.

The Olive-backed Thrush is rarely if ever found in the Transition Zone in summer and the four days I recorded it we were well over the line into the Boreal region.

As for the Hermit Thrush, I am inclined to think this bird has increased in recent years and it ranked in this summer's listing almost as one of the common birds. It was recorded ten times and from all parts of the territory we visited.

In the West one can jump, or rather climb, from the Lower Austral to Hudsonian Zones in much less of an area than we covered in this two week's exploration. Nevertheless I found the comparatively slignt faunal variations observed to be very interesting and shall look forward to another vacation of this nature.

* This was written before the colonies on the Gooseberry Islands were known to us. [Eds.]

BIRDS OBSERVED ON AUTO TRIP FROM JULY 17 to AUGUST 1, 1926

	July														Aug.
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Loon	..	..	X	..	..	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	X	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	X	X	X
Common Tern	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	X	X	X
Black Duck	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..
Wood Duck	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-winged Scoter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X
Bittern	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Blue Heron	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..
Semipalmated S'piper	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	X
Sanderling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X
Greater Yellow-legs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spotted Sandpiper	..	..	..	X	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..
Black-bellied Plover	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..
Killdeer	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Plover	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X
Ruffed Grouse	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..
Cooper's Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-tailed Hawk	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bald Eagle	X	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Osprey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	X	..	X	..	X	..
Black-billed Cuckoo	..	X	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belted Kingfisher	X	X	X	..	..	..	X	X	..	..	X	X	X	..	..	..
Hairy Woodpecker	X	..	..	X	X	..	..	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Downy Woodpecker	..	X	X	..	X	..	..	X	..	X	X	..	..	X	..	X
Yel.-bellied Sapsucker	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
N. Pileated Woodp'ker	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northern Flicker	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	X
Whip-poor-will	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nighthawk	X	..	X	..	..	..	X	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	X	X	X	..	X	X
R.-tht. Hummingbird	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..
Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
Phoebe	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	..
Olive-sided Flycatcher	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	July														Aug.
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Wood Pewee	..	..	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alder Flycatcher	..	..	..	..	X	..	?	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay	..	X	X	X	X	..	X	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Starling	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	X	X	X
Bobolink	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	X	..	X
Cowbird	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..
Red-winged Blackbird	..	..	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	X	..	X
Meadowlark	..	..	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	X	X	..	..	X
Baltimore Oriole	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronzed Grackle	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	..	X
Purple Finch	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	..	..
English Sparrow	X	..	..	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
Goldfinch	X	X	X	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
Savannah	..	X	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
White-throat. Sparrow	..	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	..	..
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slate-colored Junco	..	..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Song Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swamp Sparrow	X	..	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..
Towhee	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	..	..	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indigo Bunting	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	..
Scarlet Tanager	..	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purple Martin	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	X	X	..	X	..	X	X	..	..
Cliff Swallow	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	..
Tree Swallow	..	..	..	X	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bank Swallow	..	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	..	..	X	..	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	..	X
Warbling Vireo	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow-throat. Vireo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..
Blue-headed Vireo	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X

	July														Aug.
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Black & White Warbler	X	..	X	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	X
Nashville Warbler	..	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..
N. Parula Warbler	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow Warbler	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	X	..	X
Black-tht. B. Warbler	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myrtle Warbler	..	..	X	..	..	..	X	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Magnolia Warbler	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chestnut-sided Warb.	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..
Black-tht. Gr. Warbler	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	X	X	..	..	X	..	..	X
Pine Warbler	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oven-bird	X	X	X	..	..	X	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maryland Yel.-throat	X	X	X	..	X	..	X	..	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	X
Canada Warbler	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Redstart	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	..	..	X	X	..	X
Catbird	X	X	X	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X
House Wren	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Winter Wren	..	..	..	..	..	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Creeper	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-breast. Nuthatch	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickadee	X	..	X	X	X	..	..	X	X	X	X	..	X	X	..	X
Gold'n-crown'd Kingl't	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Thrush	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Veery	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..	..
Olive-backed Thrush	..	..	..	X	X	..	..	XX		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hermit Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	..	X	..	X	X	..	..	X	..	..	X
Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X
Bluebird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	..	X

THE ESSEX COUNTY SHOOTING SEASON OF 1927

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Following the very poor duck season of 1926 it was a satisfaction to see during the autumn just passed a much better showing, at least of Black Ducks. Although there were no unusually large flights, a good many birds, most of them home-grown of course, had collected on our shores when the season opened on September 16. No doubt this was due in part to the complete protection accorded the shore birds in 1927 which had the effect of keeping most of the guns off the marshes. The result of this better protection was seen at many other points in Massachusetts.

Not many western-bred ducks appeared, indeed if we compare the records of the last few years with those of twenty-five or thirty years ago we find in many of the Massachusetts ponds fewer Red-heads, Canvas-backs, Lesser Scaups and Ruddies, but more Black Ducks and Geese than there used to be. This change seems to be a permanent one and the present lack of variety is a real loss.

We had in 1927 a rather large flight of Blue-winged Teal and as most of them came along later than usual, from the 16th to the 24th of September, more were shot than is customary. With them came quite a sprinkling of Green-wings which are rare in Massachusetts so early in the year.

We had rather more American Widgeon than usual, scattered along until the 20th of October, and at least one of the European species was taken, an adult female, (Barbour blind, Ipswich Meadows, near Poor Farm, September 29.) It is interesting also to note the taking of two banded European Widgeon on the Atlantic coast, both of which were marked in Iceland. This appears to dispose of the possibility that a colony of these ducks may have located somewhere in northeastern North America. Probably all European Widgeon shot on the Atlantic coast come by way of Iceland or Greenland.

At Wenham we took one female Gadwall on November 21, the second ever recorded at this point. Two Ring-necks, one Redhead, and one Canvas-back were all of the more uncommon ducks that were shot at Wenham.

Geese were rather late in appearing and came in concentrated

flights with few scattered flocks between. The flights seen at Wenham were as follows: October 27, November 3-4, November 22, November 25, December 5, besides some reported still later.

Snipe were extremely scarce in spite of the abundant rains. This is difficult to account for since rains began early in the summer and continued through August and September so that the river meadows were well flooded at the time Snipe passed. Pastures and wet uplands were in fine condition for Snipe yet very few appeared and the writer shot only five. Those actually seen came late; one in September, nine or ten were found on October 7, three on October 8, one on October 17, Similar conditions for Snipe were found at Gagetown, New Brunswick on the lower St. Johns river where the writer hunted for two days in mid-October with fair success. The low marshes were all too wet and the Snipe were in high pastures well back from the river.

The very wet season made Woodcock conditions good, but strange to say very few "cocks" were present in the usual places during September. Later on it was realized that one had to look in the lowest, wettest ground, much of it difficult to hunt without rubber boots. In these heavy, low and even sphagnum-bottomed alder swamps the Woodcock gathered. No doubt they were a great deal more scattered than usual for they could feed almost anywhere. Reports from all over New England indicate a season well above the average. Woodcock stayed on late in the north and the writer shot one in Rockingham County, N. H. on November 30, the last day of the open season. This was the latest date for the general region that any of our particular "shooting crowd" has recorded.

It remains to say a few words about the upland game birds. Grouse are without doubt scarcer than at any time since1917-1918. There were fewer than last year. This is difficult to account for because the species has started to recover its numbers in the woods of northern Maine and in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Nearly the whole of central and southern New England as well as regions further west were poorly off for Grouse. The breeding season appeared to be good; in our county the weather was ideal and large broods were certainly hatched. In this connection I might mention one nest with 19 eggs on the

estate of Mr. Arthur W. Elwell in Rowley. Careful measurements revealed the fact that six of these eggs belonged to one series and 13 to another, so that without much doubt two females were laying in this one nest. I was afterwards informed that all these eggs were hatched.

Broods which the writer watched were reduced to two or three birds before the shooting season opened so that we again have to do with the problem of what destroys well-grown coveys in late August and September. Our Grouse investigation workers have no light to throw on this most important aspect of the Grouse situation.

By hunting picked ground the writer started an average of ten birds a day, or over 200 the whole time he was out. The remarkable thing about the season was that it got worse towards the end and birds failed to show up in their usual favorite covers. If there were four birds in a certain place those four were all we could account for and no new birds appeared to take the places of those that were shot. There were nevertheless some young birds, and I should judge that we shot about half and half of the old and young. Pheasants were also at rather a low ebb and it is notorious that many hens are being shot by the lawless elements. There is even a demand from short-sighted sportsmen (?) for an open season on hens! We are sure that the present stock could not stand this for a single season.

Essex County Quail are at their usual low ebb. The few conveys are so far apart that it is doubtful whether any cross-breeding occurs. The experiment of adding new blood, even if on a small scale, ought to be tried. It has worked well in other places. The sportsmen of Essex County are eager to see Bob-white restored if only to hear his cheery call and to give them some game to work their bird dogs upon. They realize that with the present lapse of agriculture it is doubtful if a large stock can ever again be maintained. Our county sportsmen are also laying plans to induce the State to start a Game Farm in our midst.

A SEARCH FOR AVIAN SUMMER RESIDENTS

ARTHUR P. STUBBS AND S. G. EMILIO

The probability that there must be species of breeding birds in the interior of Essex County, which were wanting or at least rare in the southern and shore sections, had such an appeal to the writers, that a trip was planned in June, 1926, to cover parts of the County to the north and northeast of the Club Camp, located on the Ipswich River at the southern end of the town of Boxford. We met at the Camp in accordance with the above plan, on the evening of June 23, and, after passing a misty night, resonant with the hum of mosquitoes and the bellowing of frogs, we arose at daylight and proceeded to check up the birds of the neighborhood. This task finished we boarded the faithful Chrysler and drove to Crooked Pond Game Reservation, stopping now and then as we heard attractive bird notes. After surveying that part of the preserve along the pond side, making several interesting observations, we pushed on to Fish Brook, which we followed as nearly as the roads would allow into a corner of North Andover and turning there we rode across the northern part of Boxford to Baldpate Pond on the border of Georgetown. Near this pond, we found the nest of a Hermit Thrush and a singing White Throated Sparrow in a slashing where a lumber company were finishing work on a big stand of white pine. Leaving Baldpate Pond we rode somewhat indirectly across Boxford again, to Camp where we ate lunch. During the afternoon we visited parts of the Proctor Estate in Topsfield and the Palmer Estate further down the Ipswich River. On the latter place, at the point where a narrow bridge crosses the river we had especial good fortune. This point was the place of departure homeward, through Hamilton, Wenham and Beverly.

The weather for the day was ideal for bird seeing. The mist of the early morning cleared away while we were at Crooked Pond and the temperature rose, with little or no wind, till during the afternoon it became decidedly hot. Much of the territory was new to both of us and the expedition in many ways was an exploration as well as a search for birds.

June 23, 1927, in company with Charles P. Preston, we

covered much the same territory, starting at Camp as before, traversing practically the same ground until we left North Andover, when we shaped our course to visit Johnson's Pond, in Groveland, proceeding from there eastward to Baldpate Pond and from there through Boxford and Topsfield to the Palmer Estate, at the point touched in 1926, and thence to the Proctor Estate, taking our departure homeward through Danvers. Weather conditions of 1927 were similar to those of 1926, except there was not so much morning mist. More time was given to the early morning work on foot about camp with good results. The visit to Groveland gave us only one new bird for the trip and search about Baldpate Pond was rather disappointing. The Palmer and Proctor Estates gave pleasing results, but, at the latter place, lack of time prevented our visiting the swamp edge, as we did in 1926, losing probably thereby, records of several marsh and water birds.

Sixty-three species appear in the list each year but there is a variation in names of eight birds so the combined lists total seventy-one. Of course the greater part are common every-day birds, but quite a few are worthy of note.

Spotted Sandpiper. Nested in a small cornfield near the Camp both years. The 1927 nest had been collected by Mr. Bates after the young had hatched, some three or four days before our trip.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Heard several times in 1927.

Crested Flycatcher. Observed near Camp on both trips.

Bobolinks. Not common. A few seen in the broader fields.

Purple Finch. Erratic in distribution in spite of its accepted status as common summer resident. It was found both years and near Camp in 1927.

Vesper Sparrow. One can hardly fail to find this bird near the Club property in Boxford during the seven warmer months of the year.

White-throated Sparrow. In 1926 only, a singing male was found in a pine slashing near Baldpate Pond. This is a rather rare and irregular summer bird.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Few heard in 1927.

Indigo Bunting. Only one bird for the two trips, seen the second year.

Scarlet Tanager. Decidedly common along our route both years.

Bank Swallow. Two colonies noted the later year.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Only one bird heard each trip, near Baldpate Pond, in 1926, and in Groveland, 1927.

Blue-headed Vireo. This bird is considered a rather rare summer resident and is scarcely known during that season near the coast. So we were interested to find at least seven singing males on the first trip and somewhat fewer the second year. This vireo seems to favor white pine woods.

Golden-winged Warbler was heard both years.

Nashville Warbler. Perhaps the Nashvilles were not in full song at the time of our trips for it seems that the single bird heard on the second trip can hardly indicate accurately the prevalence of the species here in summer.

Myrtle Warbler. We do not know of any occurrence of this species in the County during the nesting season prior to 1926. That year at the Palmer Estate in Ipswich we saw a pair of birds but found no nest or young. This of course was on our trip of June 24. Dr. Townsend gives a date of August 19 for the County which is very early for a migrant and may possibly represent a local nesting bird. Nevertheless we were very much and agreeably surprised to find a singing male on June 23, 1927 within a hundred yards of the spot where we had found the pair the previous year. This time we saw no mate for the male nor did we have time to search for a nest.

Blackburnian Warbler. More were observed in 1927, in fact it was really common in heavy growths of white pine. It is possible this bird may be found in summer in the pine growths of the Manchester region near the coast but the authors do not know of its occurrence except in the interior of the County.

Certainly in 1927 it was unusually common for it is ranked as a rare summer resident. We heard or saw at least eight males the second year as against but one in 1926, and our routes were much the same.

Pine Warbler. It is the *impression* of the junior author that we found more of this species also in 1927.

Canada Warbler. Like the Blackburnian, nesting more

commonly to the north of Massachusetts but occurring sparingly here in summer. We found perhaps a few more the second year.

Wood Thrush. Not particularly common anywhere we know of in the County, it seems to be more generally replaced by the Hermit Thrush. Only at the end of the second trip when we arrived in the Preston door-yard did we find this species. There directly over the driveway on an oak limb was a nest, full of almost full-grown young Wood Thrushes, and the parents not far away.

A complete list of the species observed follows:

1926 and 1927

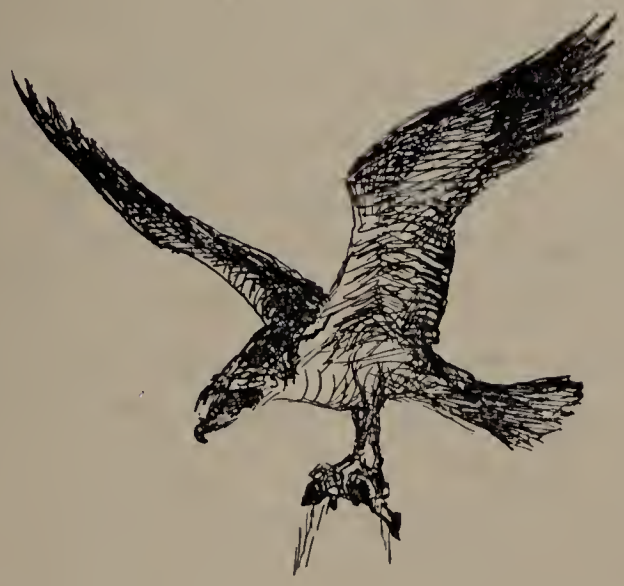
Spotted Sandpiper
Pheasant
Red-shouldered Hawk
Black-billed Cuckoo
Downy Woodpecker
Flicker
Swift
Kingbird
Crested Flycatcher
Phoebe
Wood Pewee
Least Flycatcher
Blue Jay
Crow
Starling
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Meadowlark
Baltimore Oriole
Bronzed Grackle
Purple Finch
Goldfinch
Vesper Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Towhee
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Scarlet Tanager
Barn Swallow
Tree Swallow
Cedar Waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Pine Warbler
Ovenbird
Maryland Yellow-throat
Canada Warbler
Redstart
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Chickadee
Veery
Hermit Thrush
Robin
Bluebird

1926 ONLY

Bittern
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Kingfisher
White-throated Sparrow
Cliff Swallow
Short-billed Marsh Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren

1927 ONLY

Mourning Dove
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Hairy Woodpecker
Cowbird
Indigo Bunting
Bank Swallow
Nashville Warbler
Wood Thrush



A CENSUS OF BREEDING BIRDS AT WINDYKNOB WENHAM, MASS.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

"The average bird population to the one hundred acres in the northeastern states is one hundred and eleven pairs—" according to the records of the Bureau of Biological Survey up to 1920. On the tract of eighty-two acres here considered, there have been in the past five years an average of ninety-nine pairs of breeding birds, or at the rate of one hundred and twenty-one to the one hundred acres. This is about ten percent above the average but is no doubt well within the range of figures from which the average for the northeastern states was computed.

During the five years since the record was started I have had the invaluable help of Mr. J. L. Peters, whose acute hearing made the undertaking possible. The counts were made on dates between May 29 and June 6. Our method was as follows: to spend the afternoon before the census in making a rather careful reconnaissance of the grounds with a view to checking any unusual bird notes and getting a rough idea of the numbers of the common species. Then the next morning we were always up at a very early hour, about 3.30 as I remember it, and spent most of the time until breakfast in working the ground very carefully, noting the position of each singing male and of all migrant or non-breeding individuals. On a still morning when the first chorus is in full swing one can stand in the garden and check most of the common species on twenty or thirty acres without moving. Then the borders of the grounds must be carefully worked to see whether such and such a bird is out of bounds or just inside bounds. This is sometimes difficult to decide.

My boundaries, however, are well marked: Cedar Street on the north, Wenham Lake on the east, and Cabot Street (or Topsfield Road) on the west. The south boundary runs a little over the Wenham line into Beverly and takes in the whole of the large hayfield and a small pine and maple swamp at the head of "Dodge's Cove." 7 acres belong to my grounds and about 5 or 6 acres on land of W. Phillips.

Taken as a whole, the block of land around the house is dry

sterile pasture in process of returning to a meagre forest of pitch pine, red cedar, blueberry, bayberry and ground juniper. The birch and cherry have been kept pulled up over a considerable acreage south of the house so as to keep the view open as much as possible. Most of this was cornfield some 75 years ago and the old cornhills are still plainly evident.

There are several acres of large white pine at the northeast corner, and a mixed pine, maple and alder swamp at the southeast corner. About ten acres in several plantings were set out to white and red pine fifteen to twenty years ago. A small brook flows across the north end of the grounds (dry in July) and another flood brook comes across from Birch plains near the Wenham-Beverly line. This last makes an attractive swamp where it joins the lake, but the lake is not always at the same height. This change in water level affects the breeding of Woodcock, Rails and Red-wings. Were this swamp always wet we would probably have other species breeding there.

In the little valley running just west of the moraine which forms the lake margin is a considerable growth of old pitch pine which has been underplanted with hemlock and white pine. These younger trees are rapidly surplanting the old growth. A good many shrubs have been introduced into this valley, as well as around the house.

No doubt a much greater number of nesting birds would take up their quarters immediately around the house if the lawns and shrubberies were more extensive. A tabulation of results follows:

BIRD CENSUS AT WINDYKNOB

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Virginia Rail	1 pr.	—	—	—	—
Woodcock	—	—	—	1 pr.	—
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	1 pr.	1	1 pr.
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	—	1	—	1
Northern Flicker	1	1 pr.	1	1	1
Chimney Swift	3	2	2	2	2
Ruby-tht. Humming bird	1	—	—	1	—
Kingbird	1	3	3	1	2
Phoebe	2	2	2	1	2

Wood Pewee	2	—	—	—	1
Least Flycatcher	3	2	1	2	1
Blue Jay	1	—	1	1	1
Crow	2	—	1	2	2
Starling	—	—	2	—	2
Bobolink	2	1	3	2	1
Red-winged Blackbird	4	5	4	3	5
Meadowlark	1	—	—	—	—
Baltimore Oriole	2	3	3	3	2
Bronzed Grackle	—	—	—	—	1
Purple Finch	1	1	1	2	2
Vesper Sparrow	—	—	—	—	1
Chipping Sparrow	8	3	5	5	5
Field Sparrow	1	3	1	—	—
Song Sparrow	16	8	15	10	12
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	1	—	—
Towhee	3	2	5	4	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	1
Barn Swallow	4	4	8	5	6
Tree Swallow	—	1	—	—	—
Red-eyed Vireo	1	2	1	3	1
Black and White Warbler	3	3	1	2	3
Golden-winged Warbler	1	1	1	1	1
Nashville Warbler	—	1	—	—	1
Yellow Warbler	7	5	5	3	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	2	1	4	2
Black-tht. Green Warbler	2	2	3	2	4
Pine Warbler	2	—	1	3	1
Ovenbird	2	4	4	3	2
Maryland Yellow-throat	6	5	9	6	7
Canada Warbler	—	1	—	1	1
Redstart	1	2	1	2	2
Catbird	7	6	7	7	6
Brown Thrasher	—	—	1	—	1
Chickadee	1	2	1	1	1
Veery	3	1	1	1	2
Robin	11	7	11	6	8
	—	—	—	—	—
	110 prs.	84	109	92	102

Ruffed Grouse. Presence of a brood in 1925 and 1926 taken to indicate a pair breeding each of the two years.

Starling. Presence of two broods in 1927 taken to indicate two pair breeding.

Purple Finch. Two individuals in 1925 counted as a pair and four individuals in 1927 counted as two pairs.

Nashville Warbler. A singing male in 1924 counted as a pair.

Canada Warbler. A singing male in 1924 and again in 1927 counted each time as a breeding pair.

The absence of the Bluebird from this tabulation is inexplicable.

Had the counts been made about ten days later each year it is possible a more accurate determination of the resident breeding birds might have been made. (Eds.)

A GIGANTIC MIGRATION OF LAND BIRDS

MAURICE BROWN

Sunday October 2, was one of those unsurpassed Indian Summer days that induces the bird lover to visit his favorite tramping grounds. The sun shone blandly from the depths of a hazy, turquoise sky. There was an intangible something in the atmosphere that presaged a memorable day of bird events. It was this "something" that allured Mr. John Conkey and myself to the picturesque stretch of Lynn Beach and to Nahant.

There was nothing especially interesting along the beach. The Herring Gulls sailed serenely overhead, their white, graceful forms making a striking contrast against the blue of the sky. A few White-winged and two or three American Scoters rode peacefully on the gentle swells. Although many people strolled leisurely along the beach it was also shared by hosts of Sanderlings; but walking briskly along, we soon arrived at Little Nahant. Here, the first unusual sight was a score of White-throated Sparrows, accompanied by a few Juncos flitting about the tide-washed rocks, snatching at some dipterous insects that danced about the sea-weeds. In the pines on the hill overlooking the coast guard station were many more migrants. Our list was soon augmented by the addition of four Myrtle Warbers, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, a Ruby-crowned and several Golden-crowned Kinglets, and six Hermit Thrushes. It was evident that there were lively doings at Nahant.

Perhaps few of the Nahant folks were aware of it, but that day, peaceful, drowsy Nahant was besieged by hundreds of avian wanderers. Almost every tree or patch of greensward had its quota of White-throats. The faint whispering articulations of these birds issued from every direction, and some few even ventured to voice their sweet, plaintive "pea-body" refrains. It was by far the greatest migraton of White-throated Sparrows that we had ever witnessed. In some places the birds were so bunched together, that at our approach they dispersed like myriads of fallen leaves being picked up whirligig fashion and scattered about by the playful winds. We conservatively estimated over fifteen hundred of these birds. And incorporated with this tremendous concourse of White-throats, were over one hundred

and fifty Juncoes, about forty-five Song and ten Swamp Sparrows, over fifty Hermit Thrushes, one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, at least twenty Brown Creepers, over twenty-five Golden-crowned Kinglets, a rather belated Ovenbird, four Phoebes, a Wood Pewee, a Red-eyed and a Solitary Vireo, three Towhees and a Catbird. In mid-afternoon it was with reluctance that we were obliged to leave Nahant with its teeming hordes of feathered guests.

It is interesting to note that early in the morning we took a bird census in the Boston Public Garden. Our list contained the following migrants: one Sparrow Hawk, one Flicker, *five* Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, two Slate-colored Juncos, two Song Sparrows, one Catbird, one Brown Creeper, and twelve Hermit Thrushes. Incidentally, for a half hour that morning (3.30 to 4.00 A. M.) I heard the sibilant sounds of birds passing over in migratory flight. With these figures one can easily conceive of the magnitude of this migration, which seemed not to have been influenced by any untoward weather conditions other than the prevailing northeasterly winds of that date.

22 Dartmouth Street, Boston.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

S. G. EMILIO

Mr. Brown's account of the prevalence of birds at Nahant on October 2, 1927 suggests recording my own experience at Danvers and Ipswich on the same date.

The first items of my notes for the day was "Heard birds last evening in spite of warm night." This parallels Brown's early morning observation and throughout the day the results of my search in territory ten to twenty miles from Nahant indicate, as did his, an immense visitation of birds to Essex County.

In the morning and until about 10.30 I hunted near home. In addition to fifteen of the commoner species these appear on the list: Mourning Dove 1; Phoebe; Meadowlark; Rusty Black bird 15; Purple Finch; White-throated Sparrow, *few*; Swamp Sparrow, common; Towhee; Parula, Myrtle and Black-poll Warblers; Brown Creeper; Chickadees; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush; Bluebird 10.

Soon after 11 o'clock I was walking southeastward along the road inside the Ipswich dunes. Presently I found a Grouse with eight or ten young not one third grown. The place as well as the age of the small birds at this date was interesting, for the bird rarely if ever nests in the dunes and in all probability it had migrated with the little family across the marshes from the "mainland." Over the dunes and along the beach back to Castle Hill the additions to the day's list were chiefly waterbirds, but I noted Pipits and recorded Golden-crowned Kinglets as tolerably common. At length on the beautiful Crane estate hills I found my first fall Juncos, a Canada Warbler, several Olive-backed Thrushes, a Maryland Yellow-throat, an immature White-crowned Sparrow, and a Blue-headed Vireo, as well, of course, as numerous instances of species already recorded. White-throats here were very common, in places it seemed as if there was a bird to each weed stalk and surprising numbers took to the air at my approach. I made no attempt to estimate the total number and can only record my belief that rarely if ever have I seen such a concentration.

The forty land birds I found in greater or less number on this October day in addition to five more species observed by Mr.

Brown, which I did not list, indicate a considerable breadth to the movement. This diversity of species together with the unusually large numbers of various different kinds of birds, observed particularly by Brown, certainly proved the day an exceptionally fine one for being afield.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED DURING 1927 BY THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

The weather for the year was, as a whole, abnormal. The first three months were above normal in temperature. Precipitation during January and February was average in amount, but nearly every snow was followed by rain or mild weather, so that no deep snow piled up in the fields and woods and in each month there were less than ten days of sleighing. March was unusually warm. Only one inch of snow fell during the month and there was very little rain. April was normal in temperature but experienced a drought which lasted nearly the entire month. From this time until September there was much cold unseasonable weather, with light rains until July, when precipitation increased. There were but five days in June when the thermometer reached eighty or above and but fourteen fair days were recorded for the month. July was cool and cloudy with much rain but having a week of hot weather in the middle of the month. August was dark and dismal in rain and fog with only thirteen fair days and only four that were above eighty degrees in temperature. September and October reversed conditions and were above normal in temperature and quite dry. November was very warm. On four days it went above seventy degrees; on eleven above sixty degrees; on sixteen above fifty degrees and on twenty-five above forty degrees. The lowest temperature was sixteen degrees on the twentieth. There was a week of Indian Summer from the twelfth to the nineteenth. Rainfall was above normal. November seventh the first snow whitened the ground. December was open and comparatively warm with little snow and some rain. No snow was on the ground at Christmas and the larger ponds were partly open. Ideal sunny weather prevailed over the holiday with rain on the twenty-ninth, and with mild weather and mist or rain for the remainder of the month.

The mild weather of early spring apparently caused no abnormal movement of migrants, some of the divers and a few species of ducks, influenced by open water to the northward, may have moved toward their breeding grounds a little earlier than usual but the majority of the birds moved on schedule, in fact a mixed company of ducks was seen near Little Nahant in mid May.

Phoebes and Blackbirds came early in March as usual while Sparrows and their ilk showed up in April on time. Most species of Vireos, Warblers and others that come early in May, were here when due, but apparently few in number. Unseasonable weather seemed to delay migration to some extent but it is noticeable that there is only the record of one May migrant warbler having been seen in June. Wrens, Kinglets and Thrushes, as a rule, moved according to schedule.

Mid season or summer records seem to point to a spotty crop of nestlings, as cover filled with young birds was not easily found, except in a few localities. The fall migration of birds was also rather thin, a good run of species but few individuals. How much bearing the long, warm spells of September and October may have on this is something of a puzzle. A warm November with few cold days helped to complicate matters.

The autumn migration of shore-birds was normal both as to number of species and of individuals and also in time of the flights.

Most species of ducks came on time, with the exception of the Golden-eyes, which were late, as possibly were the Red-legged Black Ducks. A pleasing variety of duck species was reported.

Geese and Brant did not appear in large numbers until late November and the last big flocks were seen in early December.

Open weather in December made late migrant Sparrows and others linger well into the middle of the month.

As in previous lists the Recorder has included a few important Essex County records not made by the Club. These have been made by observers known to the Recorder as thoroughly reliable and are given for the purpose of rounding out the list of birds present during the year. These records will be found credited by name.

A. O. U.

2. Holboell's Grebe. April 29; October 26. Fairly common.
3. Horned Grebe. April 17; October 12. Usual numbers in spring; smaller numbers in fall than usual.
6. Pied-billed Grebe. April 29 to May 14; September 24 to November 6. A single bird was about Farm Pond at the Fay estate during the range of above spring dates. See page 59.

7. Loon. June 29; September 24. Rather small numbers during fall.
11. Red-throated Loon. May 29; November 6. Infrequent during fall.
27. Black Guillemot. February 22; November 20. Earlier record made on the Washington's Birthday trip of the Club to Nahant and the November record made on the motor boat trip about the ledges. See page 54.
31. Brunnich's Murre. March 19. A single record for the year.
34. Dovekie. November 5. A remarkable record from the fact that the bird was seen so early in the season and in fresh water, Suntaug Lake. Very strong and persistent southerly winds and heavy rain November 3 and 4.
37. Parasitic Jaeger. August 8 to September 29. Seen at Ipswich.
40. Kittiwake. August 20 and December 4. Seen "on the rail" August 20 at Sow and Pigs at close range, this being the second summer record at this location. See page 60, 1926 Bulletin.
42. Glaucous Gull. February 8. Single record for the year. Seen at Bennett's Point.
43. Iceland Gull. February 20. Also a single record. Seen at Fisherman's Beach.
47. Great Black-backed Gull. Present. Usual numbers.
51. Herring Gull. Usual numbers throughout the year. Nested on the Gooseberry Islands off Salem.
54. Ring-billed Gull. May 18 to August 31. Seen in some numbers at the Sow and Pigs, this being the second summer that they were common at this station.
58. Laughing Gull. May 17 to August 31. Present in varying numbers during the breeding season but no nesting birds reported.
60. Bonaparte's Gull. May 18 to December 4. Why birds supposed to nest in central British America should be on the Massachusetts coast in breeding time and some of them in breeding plumage, is somewhat of a puzzle.
64. Caspian Tern. August 28. Single record, Ipswich, an adult in Clark's Pond with many gulls and smaller terns.

70. Common Tern. May 15 to October 13. Present in usual numbers.
71. Arctic Tern. July 27 to August 28. Few reported.
72. Roseate Tern. July 31 to August 31. Few reported.
77. Black Tern. August. Several collected.
117. Gannet. April 17 to 24; September 28 to November 20. Fairly good numbers seen.
119. Cormorant. April 17; November 20. Usual numbers.
120. Double-crested Cormorant. May 15 to 18; July 15 to November 3. Large fall flights.
129. American Merganser. March 14 to 23; November 7 to December 28. Comparatively few reported.
130. Red-breasted Merganser. May 29; October 2. Usual numbers.
131. Hooded Merganser. September 4 to November 13. Decidedly uncommon.
132. Mallard. September 11 to October 29. Wild birds of this species apparently are becoming more common.
133. Red-legged Black Duck. March 13; October 12. Fall migration apparently thin in numbers.
133a. Black Duck. Many broods of young birds noted during the breeding season.
135. Gadwall. October 6 and Novenber 21. Birds shot at Rowley and Wenham Lake. Rare species in Essex County.
136. European Widgeon. September 29. Ipswich. Bird shot.
137. Baldpate. October 12 to November 9. Was reported as shot earlier but dates not given. Uncommon species.
139. Green-winged Teal. March 14; September 4 to November 26. Apparently a little more common this year than usual.
140. Blue-winged Teal. April 24; September 4 to 16. Evidently an early September flight.
143. Pintail. September 4 to December 28. Uncommon species in the county.
144. Wood Duck. April 17 to October 16. Few reported this year.
146. Redhead. November 3 to December 8. A few Redheads were about Flax Pond, Lynn, from November 3 till

after the 16th when they were driven from this protected territory by "game hogs." One bird was seen in Spring Pond on December 8.

147 Canvas-back. October 10 to November 10, Chebacco Pond and Rowley. Rare in Essex County.

148. Scaup. May 17; October 12. Locally common. The spring date was of a single male seen with a small group of several species of ducks near Little Nahant.

149. Lesser Scaup. March 19; October 23, November 5. Not so often reported as above species.

150. Ring-necked Duck. November 14, Chebacco Pond. Probably not as rare as the few reports seem to indicate.

151. American Golden-eye. April 8; November 6. Few were reported until December on the fall migration, common after that.

152. Barrow's Golden-eye. February 22; December 7. At Sliding Rock, Lynn in the usual small numbers.

153. Bufflehead. May 18; October 26. Common along Nahant Beach and apparently increasing in numbers each year.

154. Old-squaw. May 18; October 26. Very common during fall and winter of 1927.

160. Eider. February 16 to March 2. A single bird about East Point, Nahant.

163. American Scoter. May 18; October 9. Frequently seen but by no means so common as the two following species.

165. White-winged Scoter. June 29; September 2. Rather a thin fall migration locally.

166. Surf Scoter. May 18; September 2. Unusually numerous in October.

167. Ruddy Duck. November 7 to 27. Decidedly uncommon.

172. Canada Goose. March 18 to April 24; September 26 to December 4. The large flights of the fall migration were in late November and early December.

173a Brant. Large flights were reported from Cape Ann on November 25 by M. Brown,

190. Bittern. March 27 to October 30. These record dates were reported from Ipswich, the earlier one from the pond in the dunes, the later from Clark's Pond.

194. Great Blue Heron. April 10 to May 18; July 21 to December 10. Usual numbers. A fair flight reported in late November.
201. Green Heron. May 14 to September 25. By no means abundant.
202. Black-crowned Night Heron. April 9 to December 30. Present in usual numbers.
212. Virginia Rail April 10 to June 1. Very few reported.
214. Sora. May 14 to September 11. Very few reported.
221. Coot. September to November 3. Few reported.
228. Woodcock. March 12 to July 21. Only locally common.
230. Wilson's Snipe. April 13 to August 11. Only locally common.
231. Dowitcher. May 22 to 29; July 15 to September 1. Seen in some numbers at Clark's Pond, Ipswich.
233. Stilt Sandpiper. August 12 and 14. Clark's Pond, Ipswich. Two birds. Rare.
234. Knot. August 14 to October 30. Somewhat common.
235. Purple Sandpiper. January 2; November 6. Large numbers seen on the outlying ledges on the November date. Probably common throughout the winter.
239. Pectoral Sandpiper. July 25 to October 12. Not abundant.
240. White-rumped Sandpiper. August 12 to November 3. About usual numbers.
241. Baird's Sandpiper. May 17; August 11 to 31. Very rare, or at least very rarely detected.
242. Least Sandpiper. May 8 to June 8; July 17 to September 28. Present in usual numbers.
243a. Red-backed Sandpiper. May 29; September 30 to October 30. Not abundant.
246. Semipalmated Sandpiper. May 8 to June 8; July 17 to October 26. Very common.
248. Sanderling. May 17 to June 6; July 27 to November 28. Very common.
251. Hudsonian Godwit. October 10 to 12. Probably a single bird, seen in the Plum Island region.
254. Greater Yellow-legs. April 24 to June 6; July 17 to Nov. 6. Noticeably larger numbers seen than in 1926.

255. Yellow-legs. May 14; July 17 to October 2. Status much the same as that of above species.
256. Solitary Sandpiper. May 11 to 15; July 17 to September 28. Rather few seen.
261. Upland Plover. August 28 to September 4. Rare.
262. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. September 4, one bird. This was seen at Clarke's Pond, Ipswich, by Mr. C. E. Clarke.
263. Spotted Sandpiper. May 8 to September 28. Present in usual numbers.
265. Hudsonian Curlew. July to September 4. Rare this year.
270. Black-bellied Plover. May 15 to 22; August 11 to November 24. Common.
272. Golden Plover. August 14 (C. E. Clarke) to October 30. Rare.
273. Killdeer. March 14 to September 28. Common locally.
274. Semipalmated Plover. May 14 to 29; July 17 to October 12. Very common.
277. Piping Plover. May 14 to August 28. Comparatively few reported.
283a. Ruddy Turnstone. August 11 to September 1. Several records.
289. Bob White. Present in small numbers in Danvers and Peabody.
300. Ruffed Grouse. Becoming rare.
Ring-necked Pheasant. Resident but not abundant.
316. Mourning Dove. March 20 to November 3. Locally common.
331. Marsh Hawk. May 1 to October 12. Comparatively few reported.
332. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Present. Occasionally seen.
333. Cooper's Hawk. Present. Occasionally seen.
334. Goshawk. March 26; October 30. Many reported, another cold weather invasion from the northward.
337. Red-tailed Hawk. May 29; November 9 and December 24. Only three records for the year.
339. Red-shouldered Hawk. Present throughout year. Common.
343. Broad-winged Hawk. May 14. Only one record for the year.

347a. Rough-legged Hawk. November 26, at Ipswich. Only one reported.

352. Bald Eagle. In August one was seen in the region about Ipswich.

356a. Duck Hawk. August 28 to October 12. Uncommon.

357. Pigeon Hawk. October 12. A single record for the year.

360. Sparrow Hawk. Present throughout year. Not uncommon.

364. Osprey. May 14 to Ocober 12. Few reported.

368. Barred Owl. Probably resident. Several seen.

372. Saw-whet Owl. March 10 to 14; November 5. Both spring and fall records were made on the Fay Estate, Lynn.

373. Screech Owl. Present throughout year. Many reported.

375. Great Horned Owl. Present throughout year near the Club Camp in Boxford.

376. Snowy Owl. March 22. Only one record.

377a. Hawk Owl. November 28 at Hamilton. Specimen taken by Wilkinson.

387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 17 to June 22. Rare.

388. Black-billed Cuckoo. May 14 to October 22. About usual numbers.

390. Belted Kingfisher. Wintered in Peabody; March 28 to December 26.

393. Hairy Woodpecker. Present throughout year and quite common.

394c. Downy Woodpecker. Present throughout year and common.

400. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. May 22 seen at Asbury Grove by Mrs. M. E. Ward.

402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. April 13 to 19; September 25 to Oct. 10. Again present in limited but normal numbers.

406. Red-headed Woodpecker. September 28, a single bird in immature plumage was seen on the Fay Estate, Lynn.

412a. Northern Flicker. Present in usual numbers.

417. Whip-poor-will. May 13 to September 23. Locally common.

420. Nighthawk. May 26 to September 9. Not common this year.

423. Chimney Swift. May 1 to September 11. Present in usual numbers.

428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. May 14 to September 18. By no means common.
444. Kingbird. May 11 to September 11. Common.
452. Crested Flycatcher. May 11 to September 4. Common nowhere, though in the central and southern parts of the county, more breeding birds were located than in other years.
456. Phoebe. March 19 to October 20. Common.
461. Wood Pewee. May 29 to September 14. Locally common.
463. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. May 29; August 28 and September 5. Very rare migrant.
466a. Alder Flycatcher. May 15 to June 1. Very rare summer resident.
467. Least Flycatcher. May 7 to August 22. Locally common.
474. Horned Lark. April 26; October 12. Locally common.
474b. Prairie Horned Lark. May 15 to October 2. Locally common.
477. Blue Jay. Present throughout the year and well distributed over the county for the past twelve months.
488. Crow. Present in large numbers.
493. Starling. Present in very large numbers.
494. Bobolink. May 8 to September 5. Locally common.
495. Cowbird. March 15 to November 28. Common.
498. Red-winged Blackbird. January 2; March 13 to November 29; December 24. The above series of dates seem to indicate that this species may occur here in any month of the year.
501. Meadowlark. Present and locally common.
506. Orchard Oriole. During June one bird was seen about North Salem by several Club observers.
507. Baltimore Oriole. May 6 to September 11. Pleasingly common.
509. Rusty Blackbird. March 12 to May 14; September 28 to November 6. Common migrant.
511b. Bronzed Grackle. January 30; March 13 to November 30. Year round status not so nearly indicated as in the case of the Red-winged Blackbird.
514. Evening Grosbeak. One record, January 23.

515. Pine Grosbeak. January 23 to March 11. Very rare. March 11 is a late date for the County.
517. Purple Finch. Present in variable numbers.
528. Redpoll. Only one record, March 27, near Fay estate.
529. Goldfinch. Present in variable numbers.
533. Pine Siskin. December 22. One bird only.
534. Snow Bunting. March 26; October 28. Reported in numbers from Ipswich but uncommon elsewhere.
536. Lapland Longspur. One record, February 16 at Nahant Beach.
540. Vesper Sparrow. April 15 to October 12. Locally common.
541. Ipswich Sparrow. November 1, at Ipswich.
542a. Savannah Sparrow. March 20 to November 27. Locally common.
546a. Grasshopper Sparrow. One record, July 14 at Ipswich.
549-1a Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow. May 29. A pale grayish Sharp-tail, in all probability the Acadian.
554. White-crowned Sparrow. May 12 to 18; October 2. Very few reported.
558. White-throated Sparrow. April 24 to May 24; September 21 to December 18, and one bird at Ipswich the last days of the year.
559. Tree Sparrow. April 24; October 27. Common.
560. Chipping Sparrow. April 17 to November 5. Common.
563. Field Sparrow. March 20 to October 5. Common.
567. Slate-colored Junco. April 24; October 2. Common.
581. Song Sparrow. Present in large numbers from early March to November, scattering the remainder of the year.
583. Lincoln's Sparrow. May 14 to 29; September 23. This was an unusually good year for this species as several were seen, not enough to take it out of the rare class however.
584. Swamp Sparrow. April 10 to December 24. Special field work on this species, the Recorder thinks, would demontrate that in favorable spots it is as much a winter resident as is the Song Sparrow.
585. Fox Sparrow. March 13 to April 17; October 26 to December 11. Rather thin migrations both spring and fall.

587. Towhee. April 17 to October 9. Common.
595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 11 to October 5. Frequent but not common. The October date is very late for the species. One bird in brown plumage was seen by two observers.
598. Indigo Bunting. May 12 to September 25. Increasing in numbers after a scarcity of a few years but not yet abundant.
608. Scarlet Tanager. May 14 to October 5. Usual numbers.
612. Cliff Swallow. May 14 to September 5. The breeding station at East Street on the Ipswich River the only one reported from this year.
613. Barn Swallow. April 17 to October 9. Common.
614. Tree Swallow. March 31 to September 5. Locally common.
616. Bank Swallow. May 14 to September 5. Several breeding stations located in the County.
617. Rough-winged Swallow. May 8 and 22; September 5. The spring dates are from Clark's Pond, Ipswich where a single bird was repeatedly observed and could be distinguished readily from the other swallows with the unaided eye. The fall date was also of a single bird seen at rest at close range, and on the wing, with opportunity for direct comparison with all four of our common swallows.
619. Cedar Waxwing. Present in varying numbers.
621. Northern Shrike. March 27; November 27. Only one fall record and then the Shrike was seen eating a Myrtle Warbler.
622c Migrant Shrike. March 26; September 1, (C. E. Clarke.) Very rare. The spring record is the first for many years.
624. Red-eyed Vireo. May 12 to September 28. Common.
627. Warbling Vireo. May 23 to June 17. Decidedly uncommon.
628. Yellow-throated Vireo. May 15 to September 25. Decidedly uncommon.
629. Blue-headed Vireo. April 20 to October 16. Somewhat common locally.

631. White-eyed Vireo. One bird was seen on the Ipswich River Trip, May 14.
636. Black and White Warbler. May 1 to September 22. Common.
642. Golden-winged Warbler. May 8 to August 21. Locally common.
645. Nashville Warbler. May 6 to September 24. Somewhat common locally.
646. Orange-crowned Warbler. One bird was collected near the Fay Estate, Lynn, on November 30. See page 62.
647. Tennessee Warbler. May 8 to 29. Rare this year.
648a. Northern Parula Warbler. May 6 to 29; September 23 to October 2. Uncommon this year.
652. Yellow Warbler. May 6 to September 7. Common.
654. Black-throated Blue Warbler. May 11 to 29. Uncommon this year.
655. Myrtle Warbler. Was present again during the breeding season on the Palmer Estate in Ipswich. Common in migrations and reported in the winter months.
657. Magnolia Warbler. May 6 to 29; September 5. Rare during the fall migration.
659. Chestnut-sided Warbler. May 7 to September 5. Common.
660. Bay-breasted Warbler. May 11 to 29. Unusually numerous this spring for a rare warbler.
661. Black-poll Warbler. May 18 to June 3; September 24 to October 9. Common.
662. Blackburnian Warbler. May 10 to September 25. Breeds in the County sparingly where it can find congenial surroundings.
667. Black-throated Green Warbler. May 1 to October 9. Locally common.
671. Pine Warbler. April 16 to September 28. Locally common.
672. Palm Warbler. September 25 to December 22. Very rare this year.
672a. Yellow Palm Warbler. April 15 to May 8; September 28 to November 6. Not numerous.
673. Prairie Warbler. May 6 to June 14. Locally common.
674. Ovenbird. May 6 to September 25. Common.

675. Water-Thrush. May 8 to 29; October 9. Uncommon.
679. Mourning Warbler. Seen at same spot by two observers but at different hours of September 25. A single bird in young or female plumage. Fay Estate, Lynn.
681. Maryland Yellow-throat. May 2 to October 2. Common.
685. Wilson's Warbler. May 18 to 29. Uncommon.
686. Canada Warbler. May 18 to October 2. Breeds locally but is not common.
687. Redstart. May 7 to September 24. Common.
697. Pipit. May 10; September 28 to November 6. Common migrant locally.
703. Mockingbird. A bird of this species was seen about North Salem during the month of December.
704. Catbird. May 5 to December 4. As this species has been known to winter in the County it is hoped that the bird seen at Ipswich on December 4 may stay until the spring.
705. Brown Thrasher. April 24 to September 25. Common.
718. Carolina Wren. About the Fay Estate from November 27 to December 11.
721. House Wren. May 8 to September 25. An unusual number bred on the Fay Estate this year.
722. Winter Wren. October 23, a single record.
724. Short-billed Marsh Wren. May 15 to July 21. Locally common.
725. Long-billed Marsh Wren. May 15 to July 31. Locally common.
726. Brown Creeper. A pair, present through the nesting season at the Fay Estate. Frequently seen throughout the rest of the year.
727. White-breasted Nuthatch. Bred at the Fay Estate this year. Somewhat common.
728. Red-breasted Nuthatch. May 14; September 23. Not common this year.
735. Chickadee. Very common throughout the year.
740a. Acadian Chickadee. Seen near Wenham Lake, Decemer 31.
748. Golden-crowned Kinglet. April 17; September 28. Again present in normal numbers.

749. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. April 17 to May 15; October 2 to 30. Not rare.

755. Wood Thrush. May 8 to September 11. Only locally common.

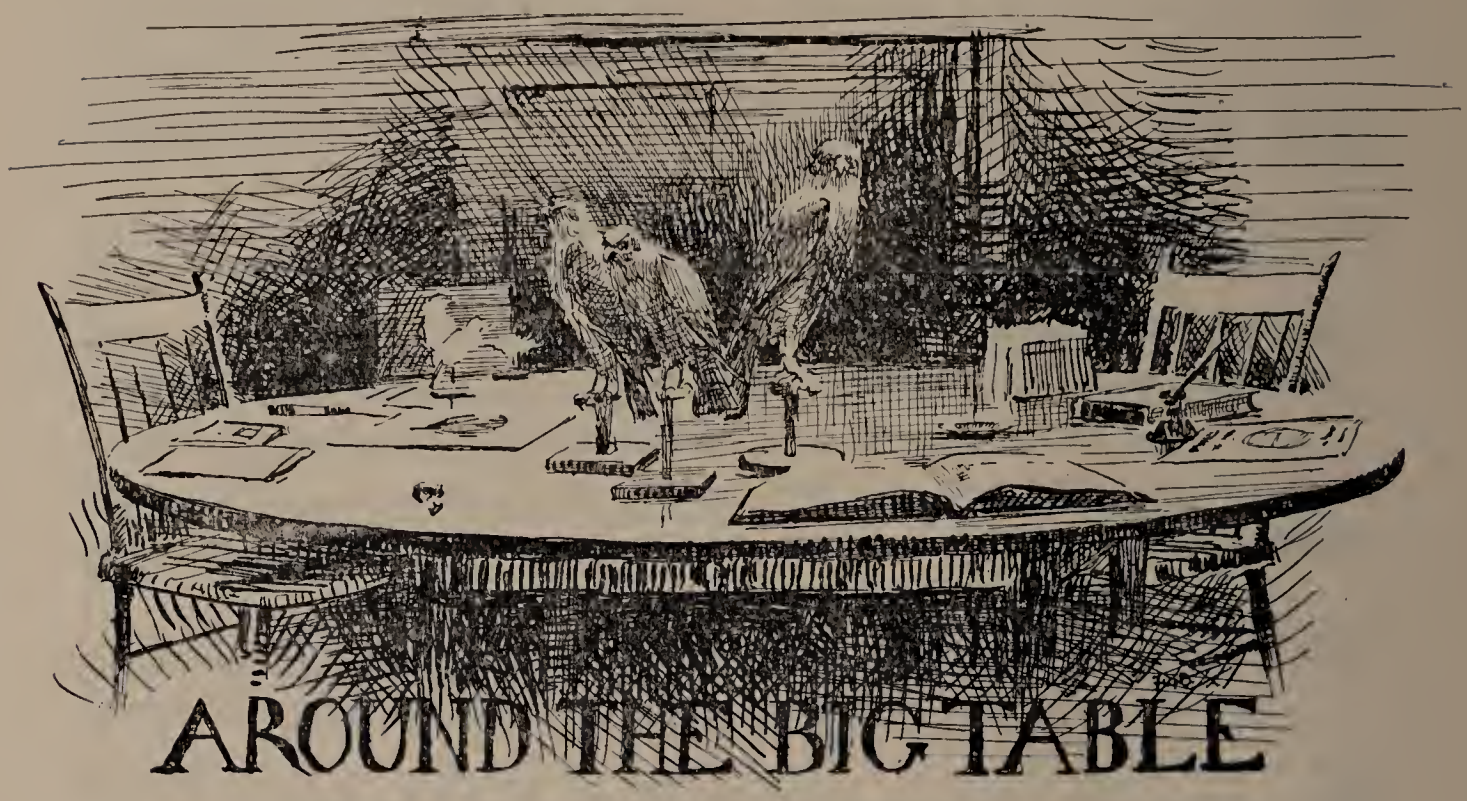
756. Veery. May 6 to September 1. Common in Ipswich River valley.

758a. Olive-backed Thrush. May 11 to June 11; October 2. Decidedly uncommon. The June record may be explained by the unusually cool weather which prevailed during late spring.

759b. Hermit Thrush. April 9 to October 30. Breeds in some numbers all over the County.

761. Robin. Present in great numbers from March to December, variable or scattering for the remainder of the year.

766. Bluebird. February 27 to October 29. Common.



AROUND THE BIG TABLE

WINTER VISITANTS AT THE SEASHORE

WILLARD B. PORTER

In early February, 1925, a small group of Club members accompanied by two ornithologists from the American Museum at New York city made a short off-shore trip from Swampscott.

I was not in that party but am told that the weather was very mild with practically no wind and an extraordinarily placid sea with scarcely a preceptible ground-swell. Close range observation of the Purple Sandpiper (*Arquatella maritima*), was the main object and as two of the party crawled within eight or ten feet of a flock of these birds on Great Pig Rocks, the expedition was considered very successful.

On this, the second trip, the thermometer registered ten degrees below freezing when five of the Essex County Ornithological Club and two visiting observers from New York, in whose interest the trip had been arranged, assembled on Fisherman's Beach, Sunday, November 20, 1927 about 8.30 a. m. It mattered not to these "Queer Birds", as one of the fishermen was heard to classify the group, that the sea was rough and choppy and that the strong northwest wind quickly froze the spray; "the call of the wild" was in their blood. So we embarked, after one of us had succeeded in reassuring a suspicious member of the State

Constabulary that we were not plotting to circumvent the provisions of the Volstead Law, in a staunch 28-foot open motor boat owned and commanded by Captain Max P. Codwise, whose name is certainly appropriate to his calling of a fisherman.

Out toward Egg Rock the launch headed, throwing an occasional cloud of spray over the enthusiasts aboard. We slowly circled the rock which is one of the newer Massachusetts sanctuaries, but no avian visitors were seen. The visit was not without its feature however, for in negotiating the passage between the main ledge and "Little Egg Rock" old Father Neptune in a most deplorable and nasty spirit sent along a crested roller approaching apparently from the direction of the mainland and so wholly unexpected. Only the quick work of skipper Codwise in "headin' her up into it" saved us from a ducking and perhaps worse.

After recovering our equilibrium we shook the water from our togas, such as had not frozen there, and proceeded on our way. This was due northeast, the objective being "Great Pig Rocks" which lie about two miles off shore. There we obtained our first look at Purple Sandpipers of which there was a flock of about 75 huddled on the lee side of one of the smaller rocks. The tide was high so the birds were merely resting. Several Cormorants (*carbo*) and perhaps a dozen Great Black-backed Gulls had flown at our approach. A stiff ground swell precluded any possibility of landing so we had to be content with a somewhat limited study of the Sandpipers.

From there the course continued northeast to "Half Way Rock". This was about five miles away and lies some three miles from the nearest mainland. The approach to this famous local sea-mark was rather weird, for the mirage which was very marked on all the islands gave the rock the appearance of standing above the level of the ocean. There, many more Purple Sandpipers were seen.

Enroute to the rock, by the way, four Horned Larks flew by our boat coming from an easterly direction, and there was much speculation on the part of the "landsman" of the group regarding whence they came, for no land is charted in that direction nearer than Nova Scotia. His suggestion that they might be on

a "hop" from some foreign shore, met with the silent contempt it deserved.

From "Half Way Rock" the craft was headed in towards the mainland and we swung towards Baker's, the Gooseberries, and Eagle Islands, then southward by "Cat" Island, which is its designation on Uncle Sam's charts, but it is known ashore more familiarly as "Lowell" Island. We continued along Marblehead Neck shore passing inside of Tinker's and turned to the right to approach the "Little Pigs" or "Devereux Rocks". "Ram Island was next and we skirted the Clifton and Swampscott shores back to the beach, our starting point where we arrived about noon.

The trip covered some twenty miles and was certainly enjoyed, though a few Black-Guillemots in winter plumage were the only representatives of the hoped for Alcidae we found. Strange as it may seem it felt warmer on the water than ashore, though none of us was seen to unbutton his outer garments to cool off.

The following species were listed: Horned Grebe, Loon, Black Guillemot, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Gannet, Cormorant, Red-breasted Merganser, Black Duck, Old Squaw, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Purple Sandpiper, Horned Lark.

Mr. John H. Baker and his brother, Miles P. Baker, now of Boston, together with Lawson, Emilio, Stubbs, Mackintosh, and the writer made up the party.

FLICKERS

WILLIS H. ROPES

My first experience in banding birds was in June 1922. I had found a Flicker's nest in the punky head of an old russet apple tree on my land, but as I had not yet received my banding license I enlisted the aid of Mr. Mackintosh who was fully equipped with licenses and bands. Emilio also was called in on this job which was new to all of us.

With the aid of a wire shutter we captured the female on June 4. The nestlings were then too small to band but they had lusty voices, the concerted use of which, in calling for rations,

some people liken to the continuous filing of a saw, others to a swam of angry bees. June 13 we made another visit and Emilio having the smaller arm pulled out the six nestlings which were, of course, banded. The male parent we did not catch nor have I ever recaptured any of these six young.

The same hole was occupied by Flickers the next year, and June 13 I caught and banded the male 107507. June 23 Mackintosh and Emilio again being present, we applied bands to the four nestlings but failed to catch the old female.

June 17, 1924, this old male, 107507 showed up in a stump of an old apple tree on a neighbor's lot. His mate I caught and banded, 113471, also five nestlings. The hole was not over five feet from the ground and the next year, 1925, was occupied by Bluebirds.

In May, 1925 I located a pair of Flickers nesting in a deep hole in an old Baldwin apple tree on a neighbor's land, and after waiting until I judged by the strength of their voices that the young were large enough to band, I secured the assistance of a small boy with a slim arm to reach into the hole and pull them out. So on May 31, I banded seven husky nestlings, 215882-8 inclusive. The parents proved to be the old male of three seasons, 107507 with a new mate which I numbered 215889.

To go back a year—on June 5, 1924 I caught a Flicker in a hole nearly two feet deep in an old apple tree on Judge White's land which lies south of my three acre lot, and used band 10168. This bird weighed five and a half ounces and when found was apparently incubating three eggs. At the time I was not familiar with the characteristic sex markings on the throat of the male and supposed this one which I took off eggs to be a female. So June 1 when I caught the mate I recorded it 10169, male. A few days later I banded four lusty young birds from this hole. Their eyes were just open and feathers still sheathed. They left the nest June 28.

The next year, 1925, on May 18 I found 10169 in this same hole on no less than nine eggs. I recognized this bird then as a female. Two weeks later however, every egg had disappeared and the hole was not again occupied by Flickers.

In May, 1926 I heard woodpeckers at work near the first tree

mentioned in this story, but could not find the hole until June 10 when I happened to see a Flicker's head projecting from a hole in the *north* side of the punky head of the old russet apple tree. I had never looked on that side before as all my Flicker holes seemed to have a southerly exposure. My catch this time proved to be 10168, a male, originally banded June 5, 1924 as above described. His mate was an unbanded bird which soon carried band 381011. At the time the young were too small, but a week later the seven youngsters had their eyes open and were half feathered so they were made to carry numbers 381018 to 24 inclusive.

As indicated above I learned the significance of the black malar stripe on a Flicker some time subsequent to June, 1924: that is I came believe that a bird so marked must be a male.

Now in the latter part of June, 1926, my grandson was making me a visit and I told him of the nest full of seven young Flickers I had recently banded, in the old russet tree. Of course he wanted to see them so we went to the tree. The young were ready to fly and one had his head out of the hole showing the black mustaches of the male. That bird flew and the boy took out the other six *every one* of which had a *similar black malar stripe* on either side of his throat. Apparently ALL were males and this seemed rather extraordinary.

In a recent letter from Mr. L. L. Snyder, Associate in Ornithology at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, he says concerning these Flickers of which I wrote him, "Like yourself I was much surprised a few years ago to find a nest of young Flickers all of which appeared to be young males. A few years later, however, a nestling specimen possessing a black "mustache" was collected and upon dissection it proved to be a female. This was again noted in another specimen taken about the same time in the same place. I have not taken the time as yet to search the literature on the subject but I have kept the point in mind and again this summer at Long Point, Ontario, three or four specimens were taken which exhibited the black "mustache" marks and proved to be females. One is of particular interest since the black marking is being lost, probably by moult but I must admit that upon first examination it suggested fading.

"This condition may not occur in all nestling female Flickers but it has on all those I have examined since I first noted the character. There may be a period, say August, when the markings have disappeared that the specimen still retains such juvenile characters as a soft, clear skull, small genitalia, sharp bill, etc. On the other hand I may find some day a nest of young Flickers some of which do not have the black markng even at that stage. Indeed this will be just as interesting an observation as any other.

"The woodpeckers of any kind or age exhibit some very curious variations which may mean that they as a group are progressive experimenters with color; or it may mean that they are a die-hard lot which regularly drags up from the past some family character."

So it would appear that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

A VOCAL SURPRISE

A. P. STUBBS

Early in the afternoon of May 1, 1927, while entering the Fay Estate I ran upon Moulton and Stoddard, just returning from a forenoon bird hunt. As both were hungry and their dinners were waiting, I could not lure them into a return trip, but they did impart the information that they had seen and heard a strange diving bird in Farm Pond. They had been unable to identify it to their satisfaction as the bird for the most of the time was half hidden in the short reeds, diving frequently, apparently feeding. Moulton gave an imitation of its calls which sounded much like those of a loon. A turn about the pond gave me no glimpse of the diver and a visit later in the day with Stoddard produced no better results.

Next morning I approached Farm Pond, at a little after six o'clock, sun time, but found nothing further, for a while, than a Black Duck and her brood of ducklings and a pair of Greater Yellow-legs. One possible bird among the scattered reeds faded into nothing and hopes of solving the problem began to fade

also, when a strange, whooping, wailing combination of sounds seemed to come across the water from the direction of a cluster of buildings. A study of the pond with my glasses revealed no cause for the racket. The head of the old Black Duck protruding above the weather-beaten cat tails of the little island, where a little while before, she swam with her little brood for safety, led me to scrutinize the island for other bird life. Finally I saw a slight movement and slowly made out the form of a bird smaller than the Black Duck. Watching carefully, I saw the dark topped head and black throat or chin of a Pied-billed Grebe. The black ring on its bill I could not make out for certain. It soon gave a call and it became evident that Moulton had been in his usual good form as an imitator as the volume and variety of its notes were surely a surprise to me. The grebe, soon after calling, dove from its perch on the sloppy shore and re-appeared some distance out in the open water there assuming the usual nondescript appearance of a Pied-bill.

The fact that Pied-billed Grebes are uncommon in our neighborhood in spring accounts for the surprise at its strange and surely unfamiliar notes; fall birds being, so far as I have observed, silent.

The grebe remained in the pond for fully two weeks, being observed last on May 14, and seemed to be decidedly pugnacious as it was noticed by several observers picking fights with the Black Duck by persisting in swimming near her brood. She was seen to grab the grebe by the neck and hold its head under water which treatment only temporarily cooled its disposition to fight.

"NOTES TAKEN AT THE TIME"

WILLIS H. ROPES

The following curious and apparently well authenticated circumstance is related in the American Magazine, in a letter from H. Pollock of New York.

"On the afternoon of the 24th of August, 1798, I was sitting in my parlour which looks towards the North River, about fifty feet from the bank, in company with our mutual friend Mr. Jacob Sebor. Our attention was attracted by numerous flights of birds, which appeared to come across the town from the eastward, and descended immediately into the river. So singular an appearance excited our particular observation. We went out and stood close to the bank, and then perceived that what we at first imagined to be black-birds, were actually swallows; and that, as soon as the various flocks had cleared the houses, and got directly over the river, they plunged into the water, and disappeared. This was not confined to the vicinity of the place where we stood, but was the case as far as the eye could reach, up and down the river, and continued without cessation for nearly two hours, when the closing of the evening prevented our further observation.

"Aware of the importance of affording any additional information on this long disputed question in the natural history of the swallow, I procured a telescope, and watched attentively many of the flocks, from their first immersion, continuing my eye fixed on the spot long enough to be fully convinced, that not one of the birds returned to the surface again. Indeed one flock of about two hundred birds plunged into the water within thirty yards of us, and instantly disappeared wthout the least appearance of opposition that might be expected to arise from their natural buoyancy, and at the same time, the evening was so serene, and the river so unruffled, that no deception of our sight could have occurred.

"When the birds first came in view, after crossing the town, their flight was easy and natural but when they descended near to the water, they appeared much agitated and distresed, flying in a confused manner against each other, as if the love of life,

common to all animals, impelled them to revolt against this law of nature imposed upon their species.

"As some time has elapsed since the above mentioned facts occurred, I thought it proper, before I gave you Mr. Sebor's name, as having been a witness to them, to consult his recollection on the subject; and I have pleasure in assuring you he distinctly remembers every circumstance I have recited, *and of which I made a memorandum at the time.*

"It may be worthy of remark, that as far as my observation went, the swallows totally disappeared on the 24th of August, 1798; for during the remainder of that year I did not see one".

From Newburyport Herald and Country Gazette, Friday, Sept. 1804.

CONCERNING A RARE WARBLER

S. G. EMILIO

Word had come through Mr. W. D. Moon that a Carolina Wren had been seen in the Fay Estate, Lynn, on November 20 and by Mr. Moon himself on the 27th, so Mr. Stubbs and I, on the next of our not infrequent Wednesday afternoon bird hunts to wit, November 30, 1927, made our way to Fay's.

We left the car southwest of Farm Pond and proceeded westward on foot to the vicinity of "Chip's Garden." Absolute stillness reigned. For an eighth of a mile or more we neither saw nor heard any bird whatever. This was almost a record for the ornithological paradise which the Estate really is, and we might well have anticipated that something would turn up soon to balance accounts.

Presently we turned southward, passed over a ridge and came to a small swampy area. Nothing in the bird line was in evidence, but I began to feel there must be something near us, so we stood quietly talking and soon heard a sparrow note up the hill behind us. A White-throat and a Fox Sparrow were soon found but we also saw another bird actively moving among the weeds. We separated with the results that I drove several birds down into the swamp. Just as I rejoined Stubbs at its edge we saw two warblers quite near, one chasing some small moth to

within ten yards of us. Before either of us could get our glasses on them both birds had disappeared. My own wild guess was that the birds might be two belated Black-polls, for the fall had been very mild and we had just seen a striped adder and heard a hyla which had served to emphasize the temperate conditions prevailing.

I promptly went into the swamp in search of the birds. Two Chickadees had appeared and frequent brief call notes from them effectually masked any notes the warblers may have given, and it was many minutes before I saw either bird again. Then for a moment I glimpsed one of them. Uniformly dull colored above without wing-bar or head marking of any kind it was dirty grayish below with perhaps a suggestion of yellowish and quite without distinct streaking. Clearly the bird was not a Black-poll and it dawned on me that here was my first Orange-crown. Again it was lost from sight for a long time but after a while Mr. Stubbs from a point of advantage outside the swamp picked up the bird with his glass and presently described it to me somewhat more fully than above. Following his directions I approached only to drive the handful of birds up the hill again. Our bird having disappeared I followed the sparrows and approaching more cautiously again saw in the weeds an unsparrow-like bird and at the first opportunity shot it.

Strangely enough the bird was distinctly yellowish beneath, in contrast to the predominating dirty gray I had seen on the bird in the swamp and I suppose this was the second of the two warblers we had seen at first. Surprisingly small in the hand, for it measured but a little over four and a half inches, this bird showed no trace of an orange crown. There was however not nearly enough yellow on the underparts for even an immature Nashville and the absence of any line over the eye as well as the presence of strongly yellow under tail coverts eliminated any possibility of its being a Tennessee.

So far as I can ascertain no specimen of the Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*), has been taken in Essex County, Mass., since January 1, 1875, when a bird was secured in this same town of Lynn, possibly in the Fay Estate region. This specimen is, I believe in the collection of the Boston Society of

Natural History, while mine will go to the Peabody Museum of Salem.

Not only has no specimen been taken since 1875, and that the only one on record, but apparently no one has even seen the bird in this County in the 53 years intervening. Records from Boston and the Cambridge region are infrequent to say the least, but judging from the single recorded occurrence of the bird in Essex County, one might consider it of wholly accidental occurrence here. However, one should consider all the known facts regarding a bird's distribution in attempting to ascribe its status of occurrence in any locality. Such a consideration leads to the conclusion that this County must be very near the extreme northeastern edge of the Orange-crown's path of migration from its summer home in the North West to its wintering range in the southeastern states. It probably occurs here fairly regularly but in extremely limited numbers, and if it always is as elusive as the two recent occurrences in Lynn, we should not be surprised that it has not been observed more frequently.

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF HAWKS AND OWLS

The farmers of our country should view with considerable concern the organized efforts which from time to time are made by so-called sportsmen's associations and others to exterminate our birds of prey.

It is wisely said that "A little truth is very dangerous" and never has this been more clearly demonstrated, for here the sins of the few are seized upon and exploited for personal gain by those who would profit by the sale of guns and ammunition.

It is true that certain species of hawks and owls are at times destructive to poultry and game birds, but it is also true that all species of hawks and owls are very destructive to mice and rats and other small vermin, which cause tremendous damage throughout the whole of every year.

Now the point is that nine out of ten of the participants in these owl and hawk "tournaments" do not know how to identify the harmful species, which are very much in the minority, from

the beneficial species, which are very greatly in the majority, and as a result thousands upon thousands of extremely useful avian destroyers of real vermin are thoughtlessly slaughtered.

We do not mean to convey the idea that hawks and owls must never be shot. Every farmer should at all times have the right and ought to destroy any bird of prey which is causing real damage to him, but the mere presence of a hawk or owl is not in itself incriminating evidence, and before the bird is destroyed the farmer should know whether he is destroying a friend or a foe. A little serious thought may even suggest the advisability of risking the lives of few chickens, in order to keep down the rodent pests.

The United States Department of Agriculture at Washington has been making a study of this subject and will undoubtedly be glad to supply much information in regard to it. It has been proven many times in the past that any organized attempt on the part of man to upset the balance of nature is like playing with fire, and anyone who is tempted to thus assist in the destruction of any of our birds should first thoroughly satisfy himself that what he is about to do has the backing of our Agricultural Department in Washington and that there is no ulterior motive behind the scheme. (Eds.)

CALENDAR FOR 1927
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 10. Regular meeting. Mr. W. H. Ropes, Chairman pro tem. Eleven members present. Evening devoted to field notes and the showing of recently prepared reflectoscope pictures prepared for the Club by Mr. Emilio.

FEBRUARY 14. Regular meeting. Vice-President Morse in the chair. Sixteen members present. Moving pictures of the complete nesting of a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds taken by Mr. Todd of Beverly Farms, shown by him. Mr. Todd also told of many interesting observations made by him.

MARCH 14. Regular meeting. Vice-President Morse in the chair. Twenty-one members present. Communication from Mr. C. A. Clark of Lynn, "Snakes as enemies of and food for birds." Many colored lantern slide illustrations.

MARCH 28. Regular meeting. Mr. S. G. Emilio, Chairman pro tem. Fifteen members present. Evening taken up with general field notes and a discussion of the lives and habits of the Northern and Migrant Shrikes.

APRIL 11. Regular meeting. Mr. A. P. Stubbs in the chair. Fourteen members present. Communication from Mr. S. G. Emilio. "The flight of birds." A series of skins of various North American Juncos exhibited.

APRIL 25. Regular meeting. Vice-President in the chair. Twenty members present. Mr. W. Gordon Means showed moving pictures of and told about two trips taken by him into Wyoming and New Mexico.

MAY 9. Regular meeting. Vice-President Morse in the chair. Twenty-two members present. Communication from Mr. C. B. Floyd. "A story of Tern and Gull Banding at sanctuaries on the coast of Massachusetts." Illustrated with moving pictures.

MAY 23. Regular meeting. Vice-President in the chair. Fifteen members present. Evening devoted to a discussion and careful check-up of the recent Ipswich River Bird Trip, and general field and migration notes.

JUNE 13. Regular meeting. Vice-President Morse in the chair. Eleven members present. Field notes and review of the Club list of species observed by Club members and notes given to the Recorder.

SEPTEMBER 12. Regular meeting. Mr. A. P. Stubbs, Chairman pro tem. Ten members present. Field notes covering the summer period and informal stories of several vacation trips.

OCTOBER 10. Regular meeting. Vice-President in the chair. Twenty-six members present. Communication from Dr. C. W. Townsend on his recent trip around the world. Canada, Hawaiian Islands, Japan, China, Straits Settlements, India, Egypt, Turkey, Greece and France.

NOVEMBER 14. Regular meeting. Mr. Charles H. Preston in the chair. Fourteen members present. A general discussion led by the Secretary, of bird censuses and the probable margin of error to be reckoned with and allowed. Nomination of officers for 1928.

DECEMBER 12. Annual meeting. Vice-President Morse in the chair. Seventeen members present. Officers for 1928 elected. Dr. Townsend completed the story of his world trip by recounting his experiences during two months spent in the British Isles, and with the aid of bird skins comparing many British and American species. Light refreshments were served.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bates, Walter E.	279 Essex Street, Lynn
Beckford, A. Courtney	3 Warren Avenue, Danvers
Beckford, Arthur W.	10 Park Street, Danvers
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